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A GENERAL

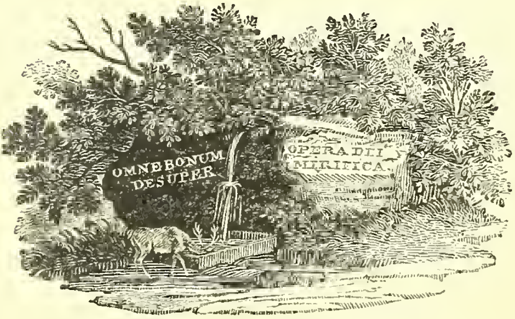
HISTORY

OF

QUADRUPEDS.

THE FIGURES ENGRAVED ON WOOD BY T. BEWICK.

THE SECOND EDITION.


OMNE BONUM
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MIRIFICA

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE:
PRINTED BY AND FOR S. HODGSON, R. BEILBY, & T. BEWICK,
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J. ROBINSON, AND C. DILLY, LONDON.

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IN diſpoſing the order of the following work, we have not thought it neceſſary to confine ourſelves ſtrictly within the rules preſcribed by ſyſtematic writers on this part of Natural Hiſtory; as it was not ſo much the object of our plan to lay down a methodical arrangement of the various tribes of four-footed animals, as to give a clear and conciſe account of the nature, habits, and diſpoſition of each, accompanied with more accurate repreſentations than have hitherto appeared in any work of this kind. Our diſregard of ſyſtem, however, has not prevented us from attending to the great diviſions of Quadrupeds, ſo obviouſly marked out by the hand of Nature, and ſo clearly diſtinguiſhed, that the moſt careleſs obſerver cannot avoid being forcibly ſtruck with an agreement of parts in the outward appearance of the different individuals of which each conſiſts.

The intermediate ſtations, however, have not been always ſo clearly defined; theſe are frequently occupied by characters ſo dubious, that naturaliſts have not always agreed in aſcribing to each its proper place: Of this kind are the Elephant, the Hippopotamus, the Rhinoceros, the Cameleopard, the Beaver, the Hedge-hog, the Sloth, the Jerboa, &c. which bear in themſelves characteriſtics ſo peculiar, that they might ſeem to conſtitute diſtinct genera.

We have endeavoured to lay before our readers a particular account of the animals with which our own country is abundantly ſtored, eſpecially of thoſe which ſo materially contribute to the ſtrength, the wealth, and the happineſs of this kingdom; of theſe the Horſe, the Cow, and the Sheep, claim the firſt place; and in treating of theſe, we have noticed the improvements which an enlarged ſyſtem of agriculture, ſupported by a noble ſpirit of emulation, has introduced into all parts of the country.

ADVERTISEMENT.

To theſe we may add that moſt uſeful animal the Dog, the account of which forms a conſpicuous part of our hiſtory, and we truſt will afford ſome entertainment to thoſe who are pleaſed with contemplating the various talents of that truſty ſervant and humble companion of man: We have ſelected the moſt remarkable of the different kinds, and have given faithful portraits of them, drawn from the life; there are ſtill others, not unworthy of attention, which might have been added; but to have noticed all the variations and ſhades of difference obſervable in the canine race, would have ſwelled our account, already large, to an immoderate length, and have left us too little room for others of equal importance, in a comprehenſive view of this part of the animal creation.

Our attention has been directed in a particular manner to the various inſtinctive powers of animals—that hidden principle, which actuates and impels every living creature to procure its ſubſiſtence, provide for its ſafety, and propagate its kind. To diſcover more and more of this unerring guide, directing the brute creation to their higheſt good by the ſimpleſt and moſt certain methods, is a purſuit worthy of the moſt refined underſtanding, and leads us to contemplate the wiſdom and goodneſs of the adorable Author of nature, who " openeth his hand, and all things are filled with good."

It may perhaps be thought neceſſary to offer ſome apology for the evident want of proportion obſervable in the ſizes of the different animals; a defect to which every work of this kind muſt, in ſome meaſure, be liable. In adverting to this, we found, that at whatever point, between the Elephant and the Mouſe, the ſcale were to be fixed, a great and unavoidable deficiency would be the conſequence; we were therefore obliged to relinquiſh a plan, which, ſo far from being practicable, would have been the means of throwing the whole into irregularity and confuſion.

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FIRMUM IN VITA NIHIL

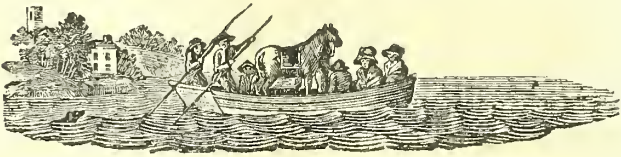
A GENERAL
HISTORY
OF
QUADRUPEDS.

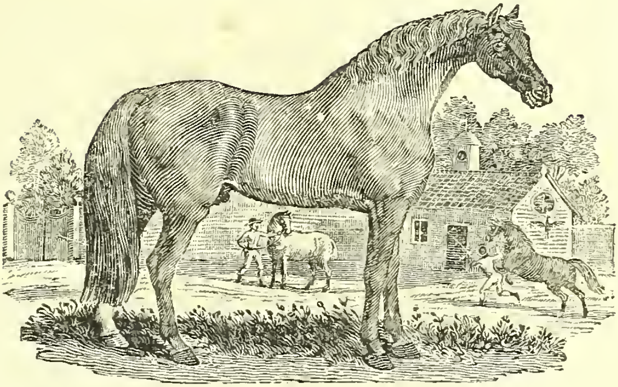
THE HORSE.

THE various excellencies of this noble animal, the grandeur of his ſtature, the elegance and proportion of his parts, the beautiful ſmoothneſs of his ſkin, the variety and gracefulneſs of his motions, and above all, his utility, entitle him to a precedence in the hiſtory of the brute creation.

The Horſe, in his domeſtic ſtate, is generous, docile, ſpirited, and yet obedient; adapted to the various purpoſes of pleaſure and convenience, he is equally ſerviceable in the draught, the field, or the race.

There are few parts of the known world where the Horſe is not produced; but if we would ſee him in the enjoyment of his native freedom, (unſubdued by the reſtraints man has impoſed upon him) we muſt look for him in the wild and extenſive plains of Africa and Arabia, where he ranges without controul, in a ſtate of entire independency. In thoſe immenſe tracts, the wild Horſes may be ſeen feeding together, in droves of four or five hundred; one of them always acting as centinel, to give notice of approaching danger: This he does by a kind of ſnorting noiſe, upon which they all fly off with aſtoniſhing rapidity. The wild Horſes of Arabia are eſteemed the moſt beautiful in the world: They are of a brown colour, their mane and tail of black tufted hair, very ſhort; they are ſmaller than the tame ones, are very active, and of great ſwiftneſs. The moſt uſual methods of taking them are by ſnares or pits formed in the ſand.—It is probable there were once wild Horſes in Europe, which have long ſince been brought under ſubjection. Thoſe found in America were originally of the Spaniſh breed, ſent thither upon its firſt diſcovery, which have ſince become wild, and ſpread themſelves over various parts of that vaſt continent. They are generally ſmall, not exceeding fourteen hands high; with thick heads and clumſy joints: Their ears and necks are longer than thoſe of the Engliſh Horſes. They are eaſily tamed; and if by accident they be ſet at liberty, they ſeldom become wild again; but know their maſter, and may be eaſily caught by him.





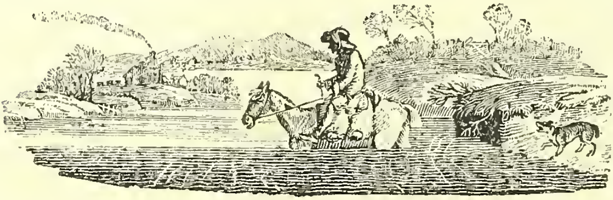
The Arabian HORSE.

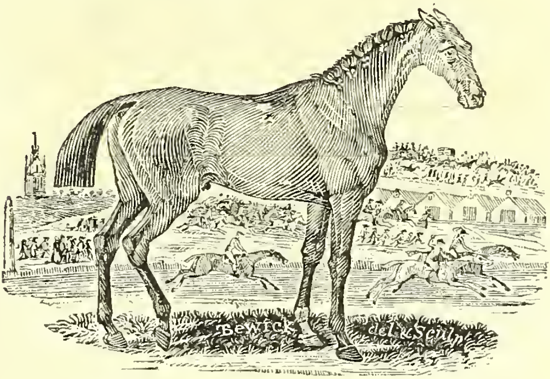
There is ſcarcely an Arabian, how poor ſoever in other reſpects, but is poſſeſſed of his Horſe, which he conſiders as an invaluable treaſure. Having no other dwelling but a tent, the Arabian and his Horſe live upon the moſt equal terms: His wife and family, his mare and her foal, generally lie indiſcriminately together; whilſt the little children frequently climb without fear upon the body of the inoffenſive animal, which permits them to play with and careſs it without injury. The Arabs never beat their Horſes; they ſpeak to, and ſeem to hold friendly intercourſe with them; they never whip them, and ſeldom, but in caſes of neceſſity, make uſe of the ſpur. Their agility in leaping is wonderful; and if the rider happen to fall, they are ſo tractable as to ſtand ſtill in the midſt of the moſt rapid career.—The Arabian Horſes are in general leſs than the Race-Horſes of this country, eaſy and graceful in their motions, and rather inclined to leanneſs.—-It is worthy of remark, that, inſtead of croſſing the breed, the Arabs take every precaution to keep it pure and unmixed: They preſerve with the greateſt care, and for an amazing length of time, the genealogies of their Horſes—Thoſe of the firſt kind are called Nobles, being "of a pure and ancient race, purer than milk." They have likewiſe two other kinds, which, having been degraded by common alliances, ſell at inferior prices.

From Arabia, the race of Horſes has probably extended into Barbary and other parts of Africa; thoſe being conſidered as next to the Arabian Horſes in ſwiftneſs and beauty, though they are ſomewhat ſmaller.

The *Spaniſh Genette* is held in great eſtimation: Like the former, it is ſmall, but beautiful, and extremely ſwift.

The Horſes of India and many parts of China are extremely ſmall and vicious. One of theſe was ſome years ago brought into this country as a preſent to the queen, which was very little larger than ſome maſtiffs, meaſuring only nine hands in height.





In Great-Britain, the breed of Horſes ſeems to be as mixed as that of its inhabitants.—By great attention to the improvement of this noble animal, by a judicious mixture of ſeveral kinds, and by ſuperior ſkill in management, the Engliſh RACE-HORSE* is allowed to excel thoſe of the reſt of Europe, or perhaps the whole world. For ſupporting a continuance of violent exertion, (or what is called, in the language of the turf, *bottom)* they are ſuperior to the Arabian, the

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* The following account of the prizes won by ſome of our capital Race-Horſes, will ſhew the importance of that breed in England, where ſuch vaſt ſums frequently depend on the iſſue of their conteſts:—

Bay Malton, (by Sampſon) the property of the late marquis of Rockingham, in ſeven prizes won the amazing ſum of 5,900l. At York, he ran four miles in ſeven minutes and forty-three and an half ſeconds, which was ſeven and an half ſeconds leſs time than it was ever done before over the ſame courſe.

Childers, (well known by the name of Flying Childers) the property of the duke of Devonſhire, was allowed by ſportſmen to be the fleeteſt Horſe that ever was bred in the world: He ſtarted

Barb, or the Perſian; and for ſwiftneſs, they will yield the palm to none. An ordinary Racer is known to go at the rate of a mile in leſs than two minutes; but there have been inſtances of much greater rapidity: The famous Horſe Childers has been known to move eighty-two feet and an half in a ſecond, or nearly a mile in a minute; he has run round the courſe at Newmarket, which is little leſs than four miles, in ſix minutes and forty ſeconds.

---

repeatedly at Newmarket againſt the beſt Horſes of his time, and was never beaten: He won, in different prizes, to the amount of nearly 2,000l.; and was afterwards reſerved as a ſtallion.—The ſire of Childers was an Arabian, ſent by a gentleman as a preſent to his brother in England.

Dorimant, a famous Horſe belonging to lord Oſſory, won prizes to the amazing amount of 13,363l.

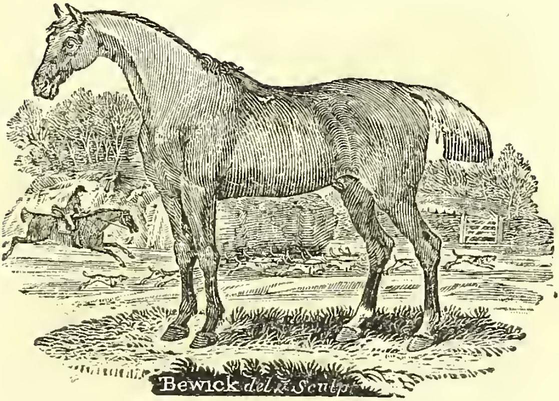
Eclipse was allowed to be the fleeteſt Horſe that ever ran in England ſince the time of Childers. After winning king's plates and other prizes to a great amount, he covered, by ſubſcription, forty mares, at thirty guineas each; beſides thoſe of his owner.

Highflyer was accounted the beſt Horſe of his time in England. The ſums he won and received amounted to near 9,000l. though he never ſtarted after five years old. He was never beaten, nor never paid a forfeit.

Matchem, a Horſe belonging to the late W. Fenwick, eſq; beſides being a capital Racer, was particularly remarkable as a ſtallion; and may be truly ſaid to have earned more money than any other Horſe in the world. He was engaged, during nine years of his life, to cover twenty-five mares, at fifty guineas a mare; and was uncommonly ſucceſsful in the celebrity of his progeny, having been ſire to many of our moſt famous running Horſes. He was remarkable for being the quieteſt ſtallion that ever was known; to which, perhaps, may be attributed his great age, being in his thirty-third year when he died.

Shark won, beſides a cup value 120gs, and eleven hogſheads of claret, the amazing ſum of 15,507gs, in plates, matches, and forfeits.

The moſt extraordinary inſtance of fleetneſs, in a trotting pace, we remember to have ſeen recorded, was performed, on the 4th of July, 1788, for a wager of thirty guineas, by a Horſe, the property of a gentleman of Billiter-ſquare, London. He trotted thirty miles in an hour and twenty minutes, though he was allowed, by the terms of the bet, an hour and an half.

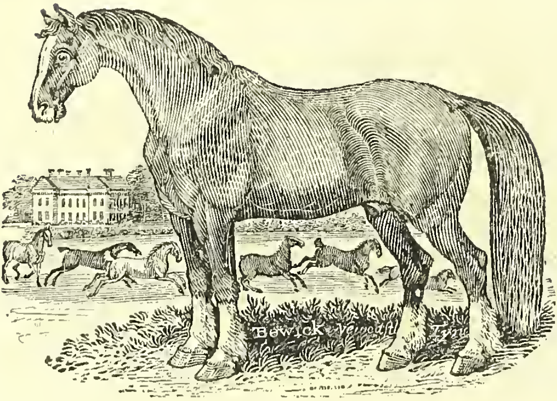

Bewick del. & Sculp.

The HUNTER

is a happy combination of the Race-Horſe with others of ſuperior ſtrength, but inferior in ſwiftneſs; and may be conſidered as the moſt uſeful breed of Horſes in Europe. Their ſpirit and activity in the field is well known, and can only be equalled by the perſeverance with which they endure the much more ſevere labour of poſting on the road, which is now carried on by this active and hardy race, with a celerity unknown at any former period.

Geldings of this kind are ſent over to the continent in great numbers: Their ſuperior worth is univerſally acknowledged abroad; and they are ſold at very high prices to foreigners of the firſt diſtinction.

The mixture of this with others of inferior rank forms an endleſs variety, the different gradations becoming too minute to be diſcriminated.



THE BLACK-HORSE.

No other country has produced a breed of Horſes equal in ſize and ſtrength to the larger kind of our draught Horſes. The cavalry of England is in general formed of this claſs of Horſes; but their inutility being experienced in ſome ſituations, others of a lighter and more active kind have been ſubſtituted in a few regiments. The fens of Lincolnſhire generally produce a larger breed than any other part of the kingdom. In London, there have been inſtances where a ſingle Horſe of that kind has drawn, for a ſmall ſpace, the enormous weight of three tons, half of which is known to be their ordinary draught.

Conſiderable improvements have of late years been made in this kind of Horſes, by Mr Bakewell of Diſhley, and others; who, by great attention and ingenuity, have acquired ſuch celebrity, that they frequently ſell ſtallions of their reſpective breeds for two hundred guineas; or, what is a more general practice, let them to hire by the ſeaſon, for forty, eighty, or perhaps an hundred guineas; and ſome of them cover at five guineas a mare. The form of the black Lincolnſhire Horſe has, by their management, been materially altered: The long fore-end, long back, and long thick hairy legs, have gradually contracted into a ſhort thick carcaſe, a ſhort but upright fore-end, and ſhort clean legs; experience having at length proved, that ſtrength and activity, rather than height and weight, are the more eſſential properties of farm Horſes.

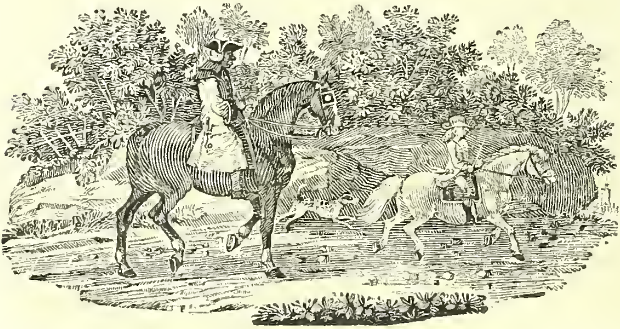
Another advantage poſſeſſed by this improved breed, is its hardineſs, or thriving quality; its being able to carry fleſh, or ſtand hard work, with comparatively little provender. This hardineſs of conſtitution, or natural propenſity to thriving, the Leiceſterſhire breeders aſſert is hereditary in particular individual breeds or lines of horſes. If this obſervation be juſt, and that the feeding quality can be obtained with any degree of certainty by management in breeding, in this as well as other kinds of live ſtock, it is a moſt intereſting circumſtance in the nature of domeſtic animals.

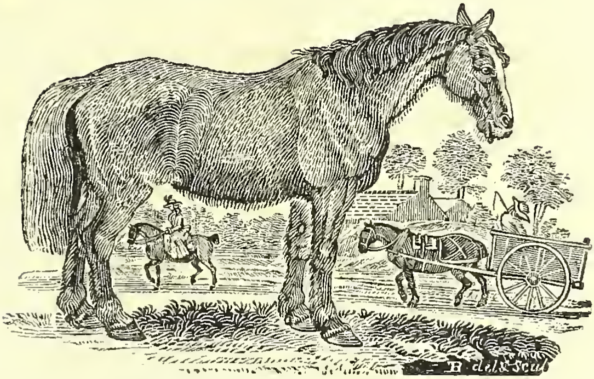
A ſtrong, bony, and active kind of Horſes is now uſed in our carriages, inſtead of the old black Coach-Horſe, which is almoſt univerſally laid aſide. The docked tail, offenſive both to humanity and decency, is rarely to be ſeen: Propriety and good ſenſe have at length prevailed over a cuſtom replete with abſurdity; and our Horſes are permitted to retain a member both uſeful and ornamental. But we have ſtill to regret, that the cruel practice of forming the tail, by cutting and nicking it on the under ſide, is yet continued.

Although it would be impoſſible to trace out the kind of Horſes with which our Britiſh anceſtors oppoſed themſelves to the legions of Julius Cæſar, on his landing in this country; yet that celebrated warrior himſelf bears teſtimony to their activity and diſcipline.

The *Old Engliſh Road-Horſe* was ſtrong, vigorous, and active, and capable of enduring great hardſhip; was rather low, ſeldom exceeding fourteen hands; his body round and compact, his limbs ſtrong, and his head thick.

The *Ponies* of Wales, and thoſe brought out of the Highlands of Scotland, ſeem to be original and unmixed. They are both much eſteemed for the neatneſs and beauty of their forms, for the nimbleneſs of their motions, and above all, for being remarkably ſure-footed in the moſt difficult roads, which renders them extremely valuable in thoſe mountainous tracts to which they originally belong.—Thoſe brought from Shetland are the ſmalleſt of the genus, being in general much leſs than the Aſs.





The Common CART-HORSE

is inferior to the laſt in ſize and ſtrength: His form is heavy, his motions ſlow, and his aſpect without ſprightlineſs: He is nevertheleſs extremely uſeful, and is employed in the buſineſs of agriculture and other domeſtic concerns.

Till of late years, *Pack-Horſes* were employed, in the northern counties of England, to carry the different manufactures and articles of traffic from one part of the kingdom to another; but the improved ſtate of our roads has cauſed that mode of conveyance to be almoſt entirely laid aſide. In their journies over trackleſs moors, they ſtrictly adhere to the line of order and regularity cuſtom has taught them to obſerve: The leading Horſe, which is always choſen for his ſagacity and ſteadineſs, being furniſhed with bells, gives notice to the reſt, who follow the ſound, and generally without much deviation, though ſometimes at a conſiderable diſtance. The following inſtance will ſhew with what obſtinate perſeverance they have been known to obſerve the line of their order:—Some years ago, one of theſe Horſes, which had been long accuſtomed to follow his leader, by accident or fatigue, was thrown into an inferior rank: The poor animal, as if ſenſible of his diſgrace, by the moſt ſtrenuous exertions, at length recovered his uſual ſtation, which he maintained during the remainder of the journey; but, on his arrival in the inn-yard, he dropped down dead upon the ſpot, his life falling a ſacrifice to his ambition—A ſpecies of heroiſm we muſt admire even in the brute creation.

At the age of two years[*], the Horſe is in a condition to propagate.—The mare is generally in ſeaſon from the latter end of March till the beginning of June; but her chief ardour for the Horſe continues only fifteen or twenty days. She goes with young eleven months and ſome days; continues to breed till the age of ſixteen or eighteen years; and lives, on an average, between twenty and thirty years.

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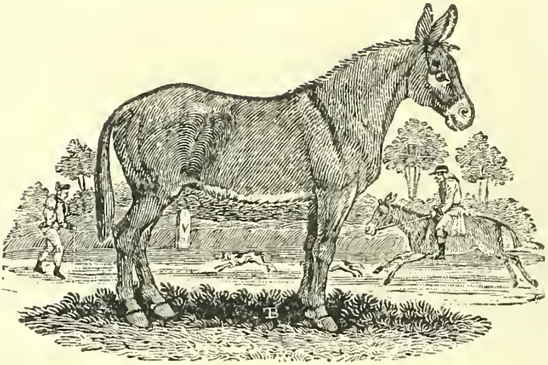
[*] There are various ways of judging of the age of a Horſe. The following are the moſt general:—The eye-pits of old Horſes are commonly hollow; but that mark is equivocal, young Horſes, begot by old ſtallions, having them alſo hollow.—The teeth afford the beſt criterion of the age of Horſes. The Horſe has, in all, forty teeth; viz. twenty-four grinders, four canine teeth or tuſks, and twelve fore teeth: Mares have either no tuſks, or very ſhort ones. Five days after birth, the four teeth in front begin to ſhoot: Theſe are called nippers, and are caſt at the age of two years and a half: They are ſoon renewed: And the next year, he again caſts two above, and two below,—one on each ſide of the nippers. At four years and a half, other four fall out, next thoſe laſt placed: Theſe laſt four foal teeth are ſucceeded by other four, which grow much more ſlowly than the firſt eight: And it is from theſe laſt four corner teeth, that the age of a Horſe is diſtinguiſhed: They are ſomewhat hollow in the middle, and have a black mark in the cavities. At five years, theſe teeth ſcarcely riſe above the gums; at ſix, their cavities begin to fill up, and turn to a browniſh ſpot, like the eye of a garden bean; and before eight years, the mark generally diſappears.—The tuſks alſo indicate the age of a Horſe. Thoſe in the under jaw generally ſhoot at the age of three years and a half; and the two in the upper jaw at four: Till ſix, they continue ſharp at the points; but at ten, they appear long and blunted.—Theſe are the general rules for aſcertaining the age of a Horſe; but there are frequent exceptions, as ſome Horſes retain the mark two or three years longer.

Although the Horſe is endowed with vaſt ſtrength and powers, he ſeldom exerts either to the prejudice of his maſter: On the contrary, he ſhares with him in his labours, and ſeems to participate in his pleaſures; generous and perſevering, he gives up his whole powers to the ſervice of his maſter; though bold and intrepid, he repreſſes the natural vivacity and fire of his temper, and not only yields to the hand, but ſeems to conſult the inclination of his rider.

But it muſt continue to be matter of regret to every feeling mind, that theſe excellent qualities ſhould be often ſhamefully abuſed in the moſt unneceſſary exertions; and the honeſt labours of this noble animal thrown away in the ungrateful taſk of accompliſhing the purpoſes of unfeeling folly, or laviſhed in gratifying the expectations of an intemperate moment.



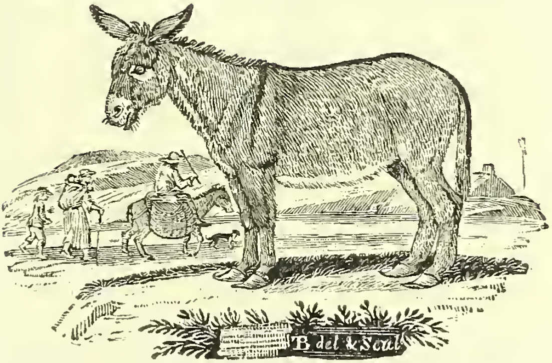
THE MULE.

THIS uſeful and hardy animal is the offspring of the Horſe and the Aſs, and being generally barren, furniſhes an indiſputable proof that the two ſpecies are perfectly diſtinct. Nature has providently ſtopped the further propagation of theſe heterogeneous productions, to preſerve, uncontaminated, the form of each animal; without which regulation the races would in a ſhort time be mixed with each other, and every creature, loſing its original perfection, would rapidly degenerate.

Mules have not unfrequently been known to bring forth young, eſpecially in hot countries; and inſtances have not been wanting, though they are rare, both in England and Scotland. But it would require a ſucceſſion of experiments to prove, that Mules will breed with each other, and produce an offspring equally capable of continuing the race.

The common Mule is very healthy, and will live above thirty years. It is found very ſerviceable in carrying burthens, particularly in mountainous and ſtony places, where Horſes are not ſo ſure-footed.—-The ſize and ſtrength of our breed have lately been much improved by the importation of Spaniſh Male-Aſſes; and it were much to be wiſhed, that the uſeful qualities of this animal were more attended to: For, by proper care in its breaking, its natural obſtinacy would in a great meaſure be corrected; and it might be formed with ſucceſs, for the ſaddle, the draught, or the burthen.

People of the firſt quality in Spain are drawn by Mules, where fifty or ſixty guineas is no uncommon price for one of them; nor is it ſurprizing, when we conſider how far they excel the Horſe in travelling in a mountainous country, the Mule being able to tread ſecurely where the former can hardly ſtand.—Their manner of going down the precipices of the Alps, the Andes, &c. is very extraordinary; and with it we will conclude their hiſtory. In theſe paſſages, on one ſide, are ſteep eminences, and on the other, frightful abyſſes; and, as they generally follow the direction of the mountain, the road, inſtead of lying in a level, forms at every little diſtance ſteep declivities, of ſeveral hundred yards downward. Theſe can only be deſcended by Mules; and the animal itſelf ſeems ſenſible of the danger, and the caution that is to be uſed in ſuch deſcents. When they come to the edge of one of theſe precipices, they ſtop without being checked by the rider; and if he inadvertently attempt to ſpur them on, they continue immoveable. They ſeem all this time ruminating on the danger that lies before them, and preparing themſelves for the encounter. They not only attentively view the road, but tremble and ſnort at the danger. Having prepared for the deſcent, they place their fore feet in a poſture, as if they were ſtopping themſelves; they then alſo put their hind feet together, but a little forward, as if they were going to lie down. In this attitude, having taken as it were a ſurvey of the road, they ſlide down with the ſwiftneſs of a meteor. In the mean time, all the rider has to do is to keep himſelf faſt on the ſaddle without checking the rein, for the leaſt motion is ſufficient to diſorder the equilibrium of the Mule; in which caſe they both unavoidably periſh. But their addreſs in this rapid deſcent is truly wonderful; for in their ſwifteſt motion, when they ſeem to have loſt all government of themſelves, they follow exactly the different windings of the road, as if they had previouſly ſettled in their minds the route they were to follow, and taken every precaution for their ſafety. In this journey, the natives place themſelves along the ſides of the mountains; and holding by the roots of the trees, animate the beaſts with ſhouts, and encourage them to perſevere. Some Mules, after being long uſed to theſe journies, acquire a kind of reputation for their ſafety and ſkill; and their value riſes in proportion to their fame.



THE ASS.

THE Aſs, it is probable, was originally a native of Arabia and other parts of the eaſt: The deſerts of Lybia and Numidia, and many iſlands of the Archipelago, contain vaſt herds of wild Aſſes, which run with ſuch amazing ſwiftneſs, that even the fleeteſt Horſes of the country can hardly overtake them. They are chiefly caught by the natives on account of their fleſh, which is eaten by them, and conſidered as a delicious repaſt. The fleſh of the common or tame Aſs is however drier, more tough, and diſagreeable than that of the Horſe; Galen ſays, it is even unwholeſome: Its milk, on the contrary, is an approved remedy for certain diſorders.—The wild Aſs is not ſtreaked like the Zebra, (with which it has often been confounded) nor is his form ſo beautiful: His figure reſembles that of the common Aſs, his colour is brighter, and he has a white ſtreak extending from his head to his tail.

The Aſs, like the Horſe, was originally imported into America by the Spaniards, where it has run wild, and become extremely numerous. Ulloa informs us, that, in the kingdom of Quito, they hunt them in the following manner:—A number of perſons on horſeback, attended by Indians on foot, form a large circle in order to drive them into a narrow compaſs, where at full ſpeed they throw a nooſe over them, and having ſecured them with fetters, leave them till the chace is over, which frequently laſts for ſeveral days. They have all the ſwiftneſs of Horſes; and neither declivities nor precipices can retard them in their flight. When attacked, they defend themſelves with their heels and mouths with ſuch activity, that, without ſlackening their pace, they often maim their purſuers.

A warm climate is moſt favourable to the growth of this animal: The Aſs produced in this country is much inferior in ſize and beauty to thoſe of Spain and other warm countries: In Guinea, they are larger and more beautiful than even their Horſes: In Perſia, they have two kinds,—the one ſlow and heavy, which is made uſe of for carrying burthens; the other nimble, ſmooth, and ſtately, uſed chiefly for the ſaddle. They are managed as Horſes; and, like them, are taught to amble. They generally ſlit their noſtrils to give them more room for breathing. Many of theſe are ſold as high as forty or fifty pounds.

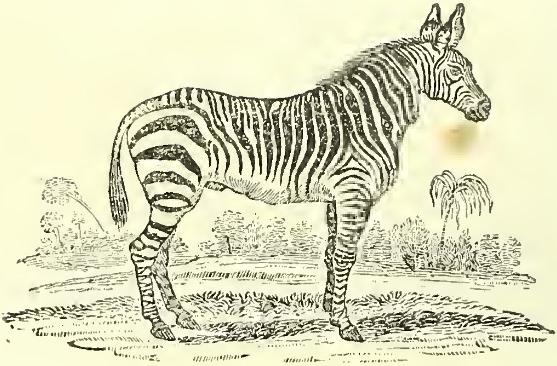
Holingſhed informs us, that, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, there were no Aſſes in this country: How ſoon after they might be introduced is uncertain. However they are at preſent naturalized in this kingdom, where their utility becomes daily more univerſally experienced.

The qualities of this animal are ſo well known, as to need no deſcription: His gentleneſs, patience, and perſeverance, are without example: He is temperate with regard to food, and eats contentedly the coarſeſt and moſt neglected herbage: If he give the preference to any vegetable, it is to the plantain, for which he will neglect every other herb in the paſture. In his water he is ſingularly nice, drinking only from the cleareſt brooks. He is ſo much afraid of wetting his feet, that, even when loaden, he will turn aſide to avoid the dirty parts of the road.

He is ſtronger, in proportion to his ſize, than the Horſe; but more ſluggiſh, ſtubborn, and untractable. He is healthier than the Horſe; and, of all other quadrupeds, is leaſt infeſted with lice or other vermin; probably owing to the extreme hardneſs and dryneſs of his ſkin. For the ſame reaſon, perhaps, he is leſs ſenſitive of the goads of the whip, or the ſtinging of flies.

He is three or four years in coming to perfection; and lives to the age of twenty, or ſometimes twenty-five years. He ſleeps much leſs than the Horſe, and never lies down for that purpoſe but when he is much fatigued. The She-Aſs goes eleven months with young, and ſeldom produces more than one at a time.

The ſervices of this uſeful creature are too often repaid by hard fare and cruel uſage; and being generally the property of the poor, it partakes of their wants and their diſtreſſes: Whereas, by due cultivation and care in its education, the Aſs might be uſefully and profitably employed in a variety of domeſtic purpoſes, and in many caſes ſupply the place of the Horſe, to which only it is ſecond, though generally degraded into the moſt uſeleſs and neglected of domeſtic quadrupeds.



THE ZEBRA,

WHICH many authors have miſtaken for a wild Aſs, is the moſt beautiful, as well as the wildeſt, moſt timid, and untameable animal in nature. Being larger than the Aſs, it rather reſembles the Mule in ſhape: Its head is large; its ears longer than thoſe of the Horſe; its legs beautifully ſmall, and well placed; and its body well formed, round, and fleſhy: But the beauty of its ſhape is greatly heightened by the gloſſy ſmoothneſs of its ſkin, and the amazing regularity and elegance of its colours, which in the male are white and brown, and in the female white and black, ranged in alternate ſtripes over the whole body, in a ſtile ſo beautiful and ornamental, that it would at firſt ſight ſeem rather the effect of art than the genuine production of nature: The head is ſtriped with fine bands of black and white, which form a center in the forehead; the neck is adorned with ſtripes of the ſame colour running round it; the body is beautifully variegated with bands running acroſs the back, and ending in points at the belly; its thighs, its legs, its ears, and even its tail, are all beautifully ſtreaked in the ſame manner.

The Zebra inhabits the ſouthern parts of Africa, where whole herds are ſeen feeding in thoſe extenſive plains that lie towards the Cape of Good Hope. However, their watchfulneſs is ſuch, that they will ſuffer nothing to come near them; and their ſwiftneſs ſo great, that they eaſily leave their purſuers far behind.

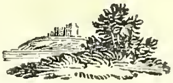
Such is the beauty of this creature, that it ſeems by nature fitted to gratify the pride, and formed for the ſervice of man; and it is moſt probable, that time and aſſiduity alone are wanting to bring it under ſubjection. As it reſembles the Horſe in regard to its form, as well as manner of living, there can be little doubt but it poſſeſſes a ſimilitude of nature; and only requires the efforts of an induſtrious and ſkilful nation, to be added to the number of our uſeful dependants. Nevertheleſs, its liberty has hitherto remained uncontrouled, and its natural fierceneſs has as yet reſiſted every attempt to ſubdue it: Thoſe that have been brought to this country, have diſcovered a degree of vicioufneſs that rendered it unſafe to approach them too familiarly; but it is by no means to be concluded from hence, that they are untameable. They have continued to be wild, becauſe they are natives of a country where the wretched inhabitants have no other idea of advantage from the animal creation than as they are good for food, paying more regard to that which affords the moſt delicious repaſt, than to delicacy of colouring, or beauty of conformation.

Quaggas, or *Wild Aſſes,* hitherto but little known, and not much deſcribed, abound in the ſame country. They live in herds, and are extremely ſwift.

RUMINATING ANIMALS.

THE various animals of this kind being entirely confined to grain and herbage for their nouriſhment and ſupport, it is neceſſary that they ſhould be enabled to receive a large quantity into the ſtomach, as well as to retain it a conſiderable time before it be reduced to proper chyle: For this purpoſe, their inteſtines are remarkably long and capacious, and formed into a variety of foldings. They are furniſhed with no leſs than four ſtomachs. The food, after maſtication, is thrown into the firſt ſtomach, where it remains ſome time; after which, it is forced up again into the mouth, and undergoes a ſecond chewing: It is then ſent directly into the ſecond ſtomach, and gradually paſſes into the third and fourth; from whence it is tranſmitted through the convolutions of the inteſtines. By this conformation, ruminating animals are enabled to devour large quantities of vegetable aliment, to retain it long in their bowels, and conſequently extract from it a quantity of nutritious matter ſufficient for their growth and ſupport.

The great obligations we are under to thoſe of this claſs, render them objects of the higheſt importance to us. We are nouriſhed with their milk, we are ſupported by their fleſh, and we are cloathed and warmed with their fleeces: Their harmleſſneſs and innocence endear them to us, and claim from us that protection which their natures ſeem to require; and, in return, they ſupply us with the neceſſaries and comforts of life.



THE OX KIND.

OF all quadrupeds, the Cow ſeems moſt extenſively propagated: It is equally capable of enduring the rigours of heat and cold; and is an inhabitant of the frozen, as well as the moſt ſcorching climates. Other animals preſerve their nature or their form with inflexible perſeverance; but theſe, in every reſpect, ſuit themſelves to the wants and conveniences of mankind. In no animal is there to be met with a greater variety of kinds; and in none, a more humble and pliant diſpoſition.

The climate and paſtures of Great-Britain are well adapted to the moderate nature of this animal; and we are indebted to the variety and abundance of our wholeſome vegetables, for the number and excellence of our cattle, which range over our hills, and enliven our plains —a ſource of inexhauſtible wealth—the pride and boaſt of this happy country.

Being deſtitute of the upper fore teeth, the Cow prefers the high and rich graſs in paſtures, to the ſhort and more delicate herbage the Horſe generally ſelects. For this reaſon, in our Engliſh paſtures, where the graſs is rather high and flouriſhing, than ſucculent and nutritious, the Cow thrives admirably; and there is no part of Europe in which this animal grows larger, yields more milk, nor fattens ſooner.

It has often been remarked, that the Horſe and Sheep impoveriſh the ſoil on which they graze; whilſt the paſture where the Cow is fed, acquires a finer ſurface, and every year becomes more level and beautiful: The Horſe ſelects the graſs that is moſt delicate and tender; and, being furniſhed with fore teeth on each jaw, nips it cloſe, and frequently pulls it up by the roots, thereby preventing its future growth and propagation: The Sheep alſo, though formed like the Cow with reſpect to its teeth, only bites the moſt ſucculent parts of the herbage.

The age of a Cow is known by its horns: At the age of four years, a ring is formed at their roots; and every ſucceeding year, another ring is added. Thus, by allowing three years before their appearance, and then reckoning the number of rings, the creature's age may be exactly known.

The quantity of milk given by Cows is very various: Some will yield only about ſix quarts in one day; while others give from ten to fifteen, and ſometimes even twenty. The richneſs of the paſture contributes not a little to its increaſe. There have been inſtances of Cows giving upwards of thirty quarts of milk in one day. In ſuch caſes, there is a neceſſity for milking them thrice.—From the milk of ſome Cows, twelve or fourteen pounds of butter are made in a week.

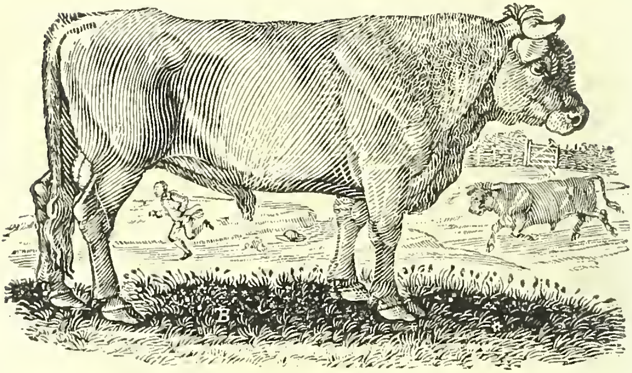
It has been advanced, by ſome naturaliſts, as a general principle, that neither animals, nor parts of animals, appear to be primarily intended for the uſe of man; but are only capable of a ſecondary application to his purpoſes: Yet it muſt be allowed, that, in many inſtances, what they term the ſecondary uſe, is ſo manifeſt and important, that it cannot, with propriety, be ſuppoſed to be excluded from the original deſigns of the all-wiſe Creator: And it muſt be allowed, that the Cow, in its faculty of giving in ſuch abundance, and with ſo much eaſe, its milk, which forms ſo rich and nutritive an aliment for the human ſpecies, is a ſtriking example of this ſubordination to the intereſts of mankind: For this animal differs, in ſome parts of its organization, from moſt others, having a larger and more capacious udder, and longer and thicker teats, than the largeſt animal we know of: It has likewiſe four teats, while all other animals of the ſame nature have but two: It alſo yields the milk freely to the hand, while moſt animals, at leaſt thoſe that do not ruminate in the ſame manner, refuſe it, except their own young, or ſome adopted animal, be allowed to partake.

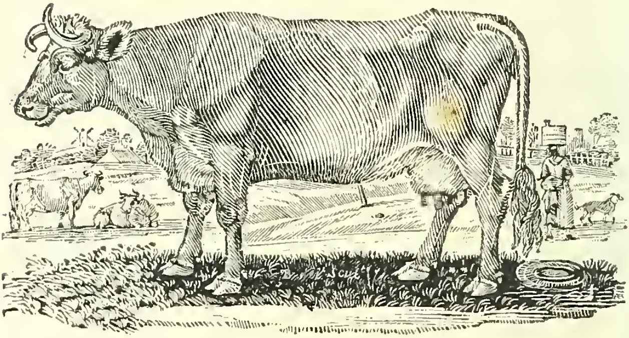
The Cow, having four teats, is a ſtriking peculiarity; the number in all other animals bearing ſome proportion to the number of young ones they bring forth at a time; as in the Bitch, the Cat, the Sow, &c.

The Cow will yield her milk as freely, and will continue to give it as long, without the aid of the calf, as if it were permitted to ſuck her conſtantly. This is not the caſe with the Aſs; which, it is well known, will ſoon grow dry, if her foal be not permitted to ſuck part of her milk every day.

Upon the whole, it appears, that the property of yielding milk, without the young one, is confined to thoſe kinds of ruminating horned animals which have cloven hoofs, four ſtomachs, long inteſtines, are furniſhed with ſuet, and have no fore teeth in the upper jaw; that Cows, Sheep, Goats, and Deer, are of this kind, and no other; and that the Cow has this property in a more eminent degree than others, owing to the capaciouſneſs of her udder, and the ſize and form of her teats.

By great induſtry and attention to their breed, and by judicious mixtures with thoſe of other countries, our horned cattle are univerſally allowed to be the fineſt in Europe; although ſuch as are purely Britiſh are inferior in ſize to thoſe on many parts of the continent.





THE HOLSTEIN OR DUTCH BREED

has been introduced with great ſucceſs, and is now the prevailing ſtock in all the counties on the eaſtern coaſt of this kingdom.—In good paſtures, cattle of this kind grow to a great ſize *; and the Cows yield a greater abundance of milk than thoſe of almoſt any other kind.

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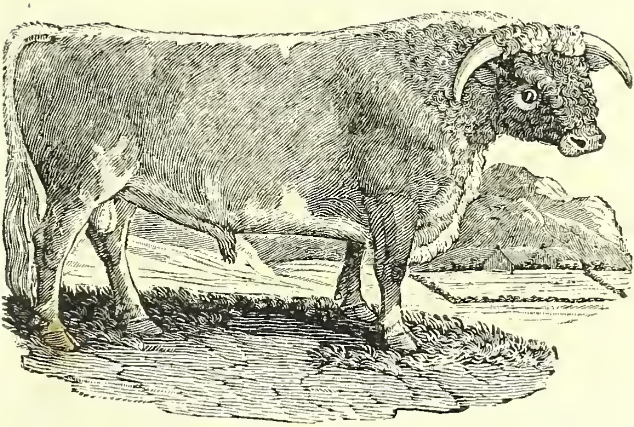
* An Ox was fed by Mr Edward Hall, of Whitley, in Northumberland; and killed in March, 1789, when ſeven years old.—It meaſured, from the head to the rump, nine feet eight inches



THE LONG-HORNED OR LANCASHIRE BREED

is common in Lancaſhire, Weſtmorland, and Cumberland, and ſome of the neighbouring counties; and, notwithſtanding the changes which have taken place by the introduction of foreign kinds, there is reaſon to believe, that this, for a conſiderable time at leaſt, has been the prevailing ſtock of the kingdom at large.

Mr Marſhall, in his excellent treatiſe on the "Economy of the Midland Counties," obſerves, that, from this kind, the preſent improved breed of cattle, in Leiceſterſhire, is traceable, by the moſt indiſputable evidence. From Bulls brought out of Weſtmorland and Lancaſhire, and Cows from the banks of the Trent, the celebrated *Canley breed*, the property of Mr Webſter, derived its origin; and about fifty years ago, it was eſteem-

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and an half; the height, at the ſhoulder, was five feet ten inches; and it weighed, without the offal, one hundred and eighty-ſeven ſtone five pounds,—fourteen pounds to the ſtone.

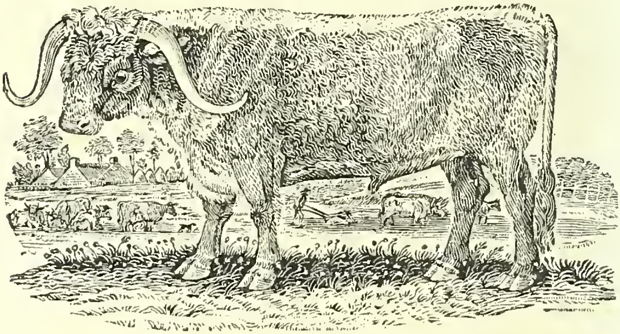
ed the moſt valuable at that time in the kingdom. From this breed, Mr Bakewell obtained the ſource of his preſent ſuperior ſtock of cattle; and ſeveral other eminent breeders are alſo indebted to the ſame origin, for the celebrity they have ſince attained.

The rapid improvements which have taken place in this truly valuable Leiceſterſhire breed, form an intereſting ſubject of enquiry; of which, the limits of our work will only allow us to give the outlines. We have however noticed the general principles which have been laid down, and ſteadily adhered to, in the improvement of the ſeveral breeds of cattle; and which have been ſo ſucceſsfully brought into practice. The firſt, and moſt obvious, is beauty of form,—a principle, which has been in common applied to every ſpecies of domeſtic cattle; and, with great ſeeming propriety, was ſuppoſed to form the baſis of every kind of improvement; under an idea, that beauty of form, and utility, were inſeparable. But at preſent, a diſtinction is made, by men who have been long converſant in practice, between a uſeful ſort, and a ſort that is merely handſome. Utility of form is therefore the next general principle, and may be conſidered as ariſing from a larger proportion of thoſe parts which are the moſt uſeful: Thus, for inſtance, all thoſe parts which are deemed *offal*, or which bear an inferior price, ſhould be ſmall in proportion to the better parts. A third principle of improvement, laid down by breeders, conſiſts in the fineneſs of the muſcular parts, or what is termed *fleſh*. But the great object which engroſſes the attention of breeders at preſent, is the *fatting quality*, or a natural propenſity in cattle to arrive at a ſtate of fatneſs at an early age, and in a ſhort ſpace of time: And it appears, from obſervation, that beauty and utility of form, the quality of the fleſh, and its propenſity to fatneſs, are principles conſiſtent with each other, are frequently found united in the ſame individual, and hereditary in particular lines or families of cattle.—In regard to the means of improvement, it has long been an eſtabliſhed maxim, that, to improve the breed, it is neceſſary to croſs it with others of an alien ſtock; under an opinion, that continuing to breed from the ſame line, weakens the ſtock. This idea, however rooted it may have been in the minds of former practitioners, is now entirely ſet aſide by the modern practice of breeding, not from the ſame line only, but from the ſame family: The ſire and the daughter, the ſon and the mother, the brother and ſiſter, are now permitted to improve their own kind. This practice is well known under the term of breeding, *in-and-in;* and, in this way, the improvement of the ſeveral breeds has advanced rapidly to a height unknown before in any age or nation.

The practice of letting out Bulls by the ſeaſon, has contributed very materially towards the improvement of this valuable breed; as, by this means, one Bull, inſtead of being uſeful to his proprietor only, may, in a few years, extend the benefits of his ſtock through a whole diſtrict; and ſo fully are the ſtock-maſters convinced of its advantages, that eighty guineas have been given for the uſe of a Bull for one ſeaſon. Some Bulls are in ſuch eſtimation, as to leap at the extraordinary price of five guineas a Cow: And it is, perhaps, a circumſtance worth mentioning, that Mr Fowler, of Rollright, in Oxfordſhire, in 1789, for ten Bull calves, refuſed five hundred guineas.

Great improvements have alſo, of late years, been made in the *old Lancaſhire kind*, both in ſize and beauty.

—Craven, in Yorkſhire, has long been celebrated for a ſuperior variety of the long-horned kind: And from thence the graziers of Weſtmorland and Lancaſhire purchaſed the flower of their Heifers; which, by croſſing with the original ſtock of thoſe counties, have produced a breed, which is now had recourſe to, for the improvement of this kind of cattle, in every part of the kingdom. —Some of the Bulls are extremely large. Their horns are not long, but beautifully turned; their hair ſhort and ſmooth; their creſts riſe extremely high; their cheſts are let down to their knees; their bodies are long, and in the form of a perfect cylinder.

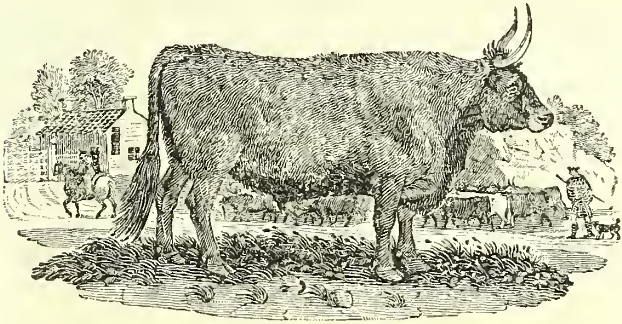


THE LANCASHIRE OX.

The COWS and OXEN are ſmaller. Their horns are long and ſmall, very ſmooth; and their colour, in general, approaches to yellow: Their hair is beautifully curled; and their whole form extremely handſome.—The Oxen frequently grow to a conſiderable ſize, are very active, and conſequently uſeful in the draught. They are well ſuited to a cold climate, and grow fat on indifferent paſtures.

In Scotland, there are two kinds, which differ greatly from each other, as well as from all thoſe in the ſouthern parts of this iſland.

Thoſe of the county of Galloway are without horns, and generally of a reddiſh-brown colour, mixed with black. Large droves of theſe are yearly brought into the ſouthern parts of this kingdom, where they ſoon greatly improve.



THE KYLOE-OX.

The Highland cattle are very ſmall, and partake much of the wildneſs of the country in which they are bred. They are moſtly black, with fine white horns, very ſharp, and nearly black, at the points; and their hair is thick and furry. Large droves of theſe are likewiſe ſold into England at the great northern fairs. They are greatly eſteemed for the fineneſs and ſweetneſs of their beef, as well as for the facility with which they acquire a conſiderable degree of fatneſs, even with moderate feeding.

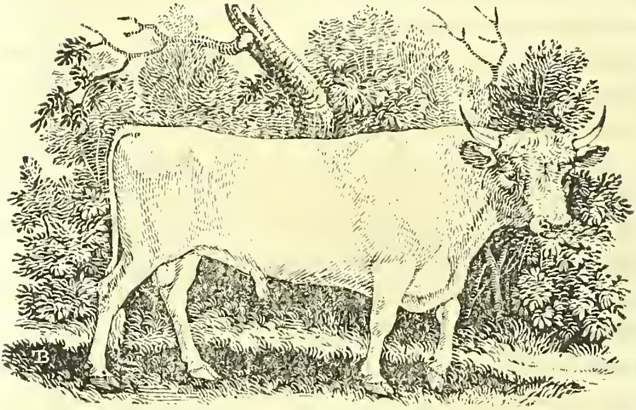
Although the Oxen of this breed, when fed in the ordinary way, do not exceed forty ſtone the four quarters, —one of them, fed by Mr Spearman, of Rothley Park, in Northumberland, weighed, when killed, in 1790, at the age of ſix years, eighty-one ſtone.

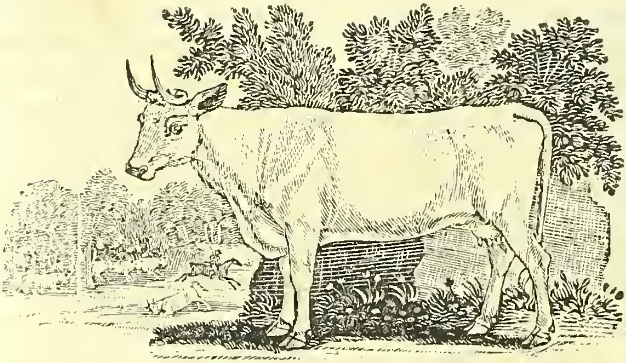
The Cow ſeems more liable to changes from its paſture and climate than any other quadruped. In the different parts of this narrow iſland, we can trace a wonderful variety of theſe animals, produced by the richneſs or poverty of the ſoil. In ſhort, in every part of the world, the Cow is found either large or ſmall, in proportion to the quality and quantity of its food. Among the Eluth Tartars, where the paſtures are remarkably rich and nouriſhing, the Cow grows to ſuch an amazing ſize, that a man can ſcarcely reach the tip of its ſhoulder: In France, on the contrary, where this animal is ſtinted in its food, and driven from the beſt paſtures, it greatly degenerates.

In Great-Britain, the Ox is the only horned animal that will apply his ſtrength to the ſervice of mankind; and, in general, is more profitable than the Horſe, for the plough or the draught. There is ſcarcely any part of this animal without its uſe: The ſkin is made into various kinds of leather; the hair is mixed with lime for plaiſtering; the bones are made uſe of as a ſubſtitute for ivory, and, being calcined, are uſed by the refiner as an abſorbent to carry off the baſer metals in refining ſilver, &c.; combs, and many other articles, are made of the horns; we are ſupplied with candles from the tallow; and from the feet is procured an oil, of great uſe in preparing and ſoftening leather; beſides the well-known benefits derived from butter, milk, and cheeſe; its blood, gall, liver, and urine, have their reſpective uſes in manufactures and medicine.

The Cow goes nine months with young, and ſeldom produces more than one at a time.

It is a curious fact, that, in ſome inſtances, Cows are naturally barren; and this is ſaid to happen, when a Cow brings forth two calves,—one of them a male, the other a female: The former is a perfect animal; but the latter is incapable of propagation, and is well known to farmers under the denomination of a *Free Martin.* It reſembles the Ox, or ſpayed Heifer, in figure; and is conſiderably larger than the Cow. It is ſometimes preſerved by the farmer, for the purpoſe of yoking with the Oxen, or fattening for the table.—Mr Hunter obſerves, that the fleſh of the Free Martin, like that of the Ox, is in common much finer in the fibre than either the Bull or Cow. It is ſuppoſed to exceed that of the Heifer in delicacy of flavour, and bears a higher price at market.





WILD CATTLE.

There was formerly a very ſingular ſpecies of wild cattle in this country, which is now nearly extinct. Numerous herds of them were kept in ſeveral parks in England and Scotland; but they have been deſtroyed by various means: And the only breeds now remaining in the kingdom, are in the park at Chillingham-caſtle, in Northumberland; at Wollaton, in Nottinghamſhire, the ſeat of lord Middleton; at Giſburne, in Craven, Yorkſhire; at Lime-hall, in Cheſhire; and at Chartley, in Staffordſhire.

The principal external appearances which diſtinguiſh this breed of cattle from all others, are the following:—Their colour is invariably white; muzzles black; the whole of the inſide of the ear, and about one-third of the outſide, from the tip downwards, red[*]; horns white, with black tips, very fine, and bent upwards: Some of the Bulls have a thin upright mane, about an inch and an half, or two inches long.

At the firſt appearance of any perſon, they ſet off in full gallop; and, at the diſtance of two or three hundred yards, make a wheel round, and come boldly up again, toſſing their heads in a menacing manner: On a ſudden they make a full ſtop, at the diſtance of forty or fifty yards, looking wildly at the object of their ſurprize; but, upon the leaſt motion being made, they all again turn round, and fly off with equal ſpeed, but not to the ſame diſtance: Forming a ſhorter circle, and again returning with a bolder and more threatening aſpect than before, they approach much nearer, probably within thirty yards; when they make another ſtand, and again fly off: This they do ſeveral times, ſhortening their diſtance, and advancing nearer, till they come within ten yards; when moſt people think it prudent to leave them, not chuſing to provoke them further; for there is little doubt but in two or three turns they would make an attack.

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[*] About twenty years ſince, there were a few, at Chillingham, with BLACK EARS; but the preſent park-keeper deſtroyed them;—ſince which period, there has not been one with black ears.—The ears and noſes of all thoſe at Wollaton are BLACK.—At Giſburne, there are ſome perfectly WHITE; except the inſide of their ears, which are BROWN. They are without horns, very ſtrong-boned, but not high. They are ſaid to have been originally brought from Whalley-abbey, in Lancaſhire, upon its diſſolution in the thirty-third of Henry the Eighth. Tradition ſays, they were drawn to Giſburne by the 'power of muſic.'

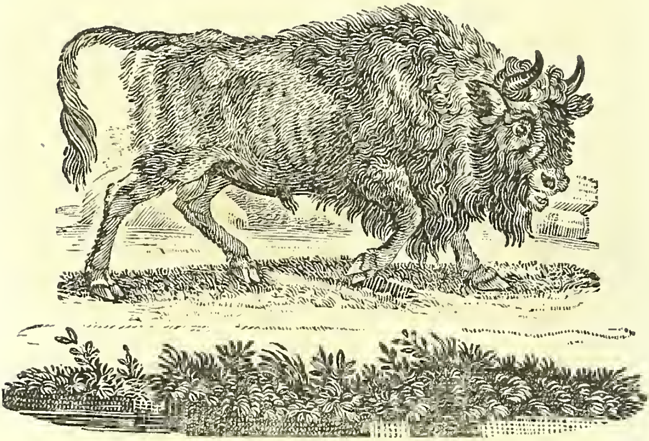
The mode of killing them was, perhaps, the only modern remains of the grandeur of ancient hunting. On notice being given, that a wild Bull would be killed on a certain day, the inhabitants of the neighbourhood came mounted, and armed with guns, &c. ſometimes to the amount of an hundred horſe, and four or five hundred foot, who ſtood upon walls, or got into trees, while the horſemen rode off the Bull from the reſt of the herd, until he ſtood at bay; when a markſman diſmounted and ſhot. At ſome of theſe huntings, twenty or thirty ſhots have been fired before he was ſubdued. On ſuch occaſions, the bleeding victim grew deſperately furious, from the ſmarting of his wounds, and the ſhouts of ſavage joy that were echoing from every ſide: But, from the number of accidents that happened, this dangerous mode has been little practiſed of late years; the park-keeper alone generally ſhooting them with a rifled gun, at one ſhot.

When the Cows calve, they hide their calves for a week or ten days in ſome ſequeſtered ſituation, and go and ſuckle them two or three times a-day. If any perſon come near the calves, they clap their heads cloſe to the ground, and lie like a hare in form, to hide themſelves: This is a proof of their native wildneſs, and is corroborated by the following circumſtance that happened to the writer of this narrative, who found a hidden calf, two days old, very lean, and very weak:—On ſtroking its head, it got up, pawed two or three times like an old Bull, bellowed very loud, ſtepped back a few ſteps, and bolted at his legs with all its force; it then began to paw again, bellowed, ſtepped back, and bolted as before; but knowing its intention, and ſtepping aſide, it miſſed him, fell, and was ſo very weak that it could not riſe, though it made ſeveral efforts: But it had done enough: The whole herd were alarmed, and, coming to its reſcue, obliged him to retire; for the dams will allow no perſon to touch their calves, without attacking them with impetuous ferocity.

When any one happens to be wounded, or is grown weak and feeble through age or ſickneſs, the reſt of the herd ſet upon it, and gore it to death.

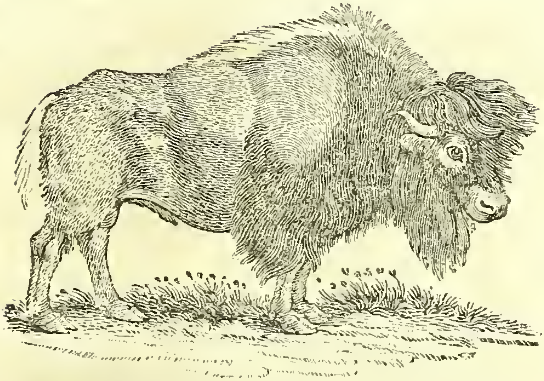
The weight of the Oxen is generally from forty to fifty ſtone the four quarters; the Cows about thirty. The beef is finely marbled, and of excellent flavour.

Thoſe at Burton-Conſtable, in the county of York, were all deſtroyed by a diſtemper a few years ſince. They varied ſlightly from thoſe at Chillingham, having black ears and muzzles, and the tips of their tails of the ſame colour: They were alſo much larger, many of them weighing ſixty ſtone; probably owing to the richneſs of the paſturage in Holderneſs; but generally attributed to the difference of kind between thoſe with black and with red ears, the former of which they ſtudiouſly endeavoured to preſerve. The breed which was at Drumlanrig, in Scotland, had alſo black ears.



THE URUS, OR WILD-BULL,

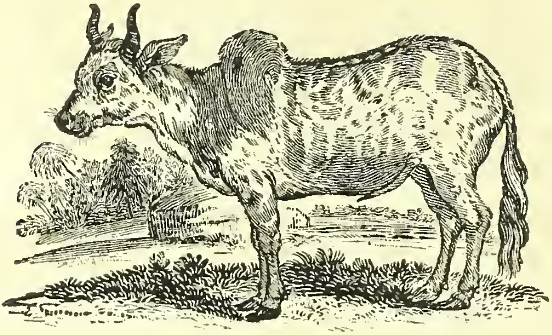
is chiefly to be met with in the extenſive foreſts of Lithuania. It grows to a ſize almoſt equal to the Elephant, and is quite black; the eyes are red and fiery, the horns thick and ſhort, and the forehead covered with a quantity of curled hair; the neck is ſhort and ſtrong, and the ſkin has an odour of muſk. The female, though not ſo big as the male, exceeds the largeſt of our bulls in ſize: Nevertheleſs, her udder is extremely ſmall. Upon the whole, however, this animal, which greatly reſembles thoſe of the tame kind, probably owes its variety to its natural wildneſs, and the richneſs of the paſtures where it is produced.



THE BISON

differs from the reſt of the Ox kind, in having a large lump between its ſhoulders, almoſt as high as that of a camel. He has a long ſhaggy mane, which forms a kind of beard under his chin; his eyes are fierce, his forehead large, and his horns extremely wide. It is dangerous to purſue him, except in foreſts abounding with trees large enough to conceal the hunters. He is generally taken in pits covered with branches of trees and graſs, on the oppoſite ſide of which the hunters tempt the animal to purſue them; and the enraged creature running towards them, falls into the trap prepared for it, and is then overpowered and ſlain.

The Biſon, or the animal with the hump, is found in all the ſouthern parts of the world, though greatly differing from each other in ſize and form; while the Urus, or the one without the hump, chiefly occupies the temperate and cold climates. The former extend through-out the vaſt continent of India, and from Mount Atlas to the Cape of Good Hope. In ſome parts, they are extremely large; while in others, they are very ſmall, ſuch as the Zebu, or Barbary Cow.



THE ZEBU.

They are all equally docile and gentle, when tamed; and are in general covered with fine gloſſy hair, ſofter and more beautiful than that of the common Cow.—Their humps are of different ſizes, in ſome weighing from forty to fifty pounds, but in others leſs. That part is in general conſidered as a great delicacy; and, when dreſſed, has much the appearance and taſte of udder.

The Biſons of Madagaſcar and Malabar are of the great kind; thoſe of Arabia Petrea, and moſt parts of Africa, are of the Zebu or ſmall kind.

In America, eſpecially towards the North, the Biſon is well known. They herd together, in droves of from one to two hundred, on the banks of the Miſſiſippi; where the inhabitants hunt them, their fleſh being eſteemed good eating.

They all breed with the tame Cow. The hump, which is only an accidental characteriſtic, gradually declines; and, in a few generations, no veſtiges of it remain.—Thus we ſee, whether it be the wild or the tame Ox, the Bonaſus or the Urus, the Biſon or the Zebu, by whatever name they are diſtinguiſhed, or however variouſly claſſed by naturaliſts, in reality they are the ſame; and, though diverſified in their appearance and properties, are deſcendants of one common ſtock; of which the moſt unequivocal proof is, that they all mix and breed with each other.

The *Oxen* of India are of different ſizes, and are made uſe of in travelling, as ſubſtitutes for horſes. Their common pace is ſoft. Inſtead of a bit, a ſmall cord is paſſed through the cartilage of the noſtrils, which is tied to a larger cord, and ſerves as a bridle. They are ſaddled like horſes; and, when puſhed, move very briſkly. They are likewiſe uſed in drawing chariots and carts. For the former purpoſe, white Oxen are in great eſteem, and much admired. They will perform journies of ſixty days, at the rate of from twelve to fifteen leagues a day; and their travelling pace is generally a trot.

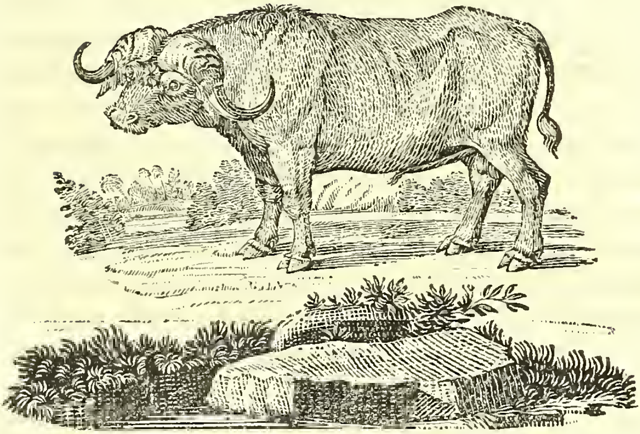
In Perſia, there are many *Oxen* entirely white, with ſmall blunt horns, and humps on their backs. They are very ſtrong, and carry heavy burthens. When about to be loaded, they drop down on their knees like the Camel, and riſe when their burthens are properly faſtened.

THE GRUNTING-OX.

The Sarluc, or Grunting-Cow of Tartary, from its reſemblance to the Biſon, may be conſidered as belonging to the ſame ſpecies. Its horns are ſhort, upright, ſlender, and very ſharp; the hair on its body is black, except the mane and ridge of the back, where it is white; its whole body is covered with very long hair, which hangs down below its knees, and makes its legs appear ſhort; it has a hump on its back; its tail reſembles that of a horſe, is white, and very buſhy; it ſtrikes with its head like a goat, and is very unruly; its diſtinguiſhing peculiarity is, that it makes a grunting noiſe like a hog, inſtead of lowing like the Ox, which in every other inſtance it greatly reſembles. It abounds greatly in the kingdom of Thibet, where it is domeſticated.

The wild breed, called *Bucha*, is extremely fierce. When wounded, it will ſometimes turn upon its aſſailant, and attack him with great fury. It copulates with the tame Cow. Their produce is employed in domeſtic purpoſes.

Its tail is very valuable, and is ſold at a great price in Thibet. When mounted on a ſilver handle, it is uſed, by the principal men in India, as a bruſh to chaſe away the flies. It is ſometimes faſtened, as an ornament, to the ear of the Elephant.—The Chineſe dye the hair red, and form it into tufts to adorn their bonnets.



THE BUFFALO.

Though there is the moſt ſtriking general reſemblance between the Buffalo and our common Ox, both in regard to form and nature, their habits and propenſities being nearly ſimilar, are both equally ſubmiſſive to the yoke, and may be employed in the ſame domeſtic ſervices; yet it is certain, from experience, that no two animals can, in reality, be more diſtinct: The Cow refuſes to breed with the Buffalo, while it is known to propagate with the Biſon, to which it bears, in point of form, a much more diſtant ſimilitude.

The Buffalo is found, in a wild ſtate, in many parts of Africa and India; and is common in the countries near the Cape of Good Hope, where he is deſcribed, by Sparrman, as a fierce, cruel, and treacherous animal. He frequently ruſhes from behind a thicket upon ſome unwary paſſenger; and, having thrown him down, tramples him to death with his feet and knees, tearing him with his horns and teeth, and licking him with his rough tongue, till the ſkin is nearly ſtripped from the body.—The following accurate deſcription we owe to the ſame author:—The length of the Buffalo, from head to tail, is eight feet; the height five and a half; and the fore legs two feet and a half long: From the tip of the muzzle to the horns, twenty-two inches: His limbs, in proportion to his ſize, are much ſtouter than thoſe of the Ox; his fetlocks likewiſe hang nearer the ground: The horns are ſingular, both in their form and poſition; the baſes of them are thirteen inches broad, and only an inch diſtant from each other, having a narrow channel or furrow between them; from this furrow, the horns aſſume a ſpherical form, extending over a great part of the head; the diſtance between the points is often above five feet: The ears are a foot long, ſomewhat pendulous, and in a great meaſure covered and defended by the lower edges of the horns, which bend down on each ſide, forming a curve upwards with the points: Their hair is of a dark-brown colour, about an inch long, harſh, and, upon thoſe males that are advanced in years, ſtraggling and thin, eſpecially on each ſide of the belly, which gives them the appearance of being girt with a belt: They frequently roll themſelves in the mire, of which they are very fond: The tail is ſhort, and tufted at the end: The eyes are large, and ſomewhat ſunk within their prominent orbits, which are almoſt covered with the baſes of the horns overhanging its dangling ears; this, with a peculiar inclination of the head to one ſide, which is its uſual manner, produces an aſpect at once fierce, cunning, and tremendous: The fleſh is coarſe, rather lean, but full of juice of a high, but not unpleaſant flavour: The hide is thick and tough, and of great uſe in making thongs and harneſs; it is ſo hard, as not to be penetrated by a common muſket-ball; thoſe made uſe of for ſhooting the Buffalo, are mixed with tin; and even theſe are frequently flattened by the concuſſion.

In Italy, the Buffalo is domeſticated, and conſtitutes the riches and food of the poor, who employ them for the purpoſes of agriculture, and make butter and cheeſe from their milk.

The female produces but one at a time, and continues pregnant twelve months;—another ſtriking characteriſtic difference between the Buffalo and the common Cow.

The MUSK-BULL

inhabits the interior parts of North-America, on the weſt ſide of Hudſon's Bay, between Churchill and Seal rivers. They are very numerous in thoſe parts, and live in herds of twenty or thirty. The Indians eat the fleſh, and make coverings of their ſkins. They are brought down in ſledges, to ſupply the forts during the winter. Notwithſtanding the fleſh is ſaid to have a ſtrong flavour of muſk, it is reckoned very good and wholeſome.

The Muſk-Bull is ſomewhat lower than a Deer, but more bulky. Its legs are ſhort; and it has a ſmall hump on its ſhoulder: Its hair is of a duſky-red colour, very fine, and ſo long, as to reach to the ground: Beneath the hair, its body is covered with wool of an aſh colour, which is exquiſitely fine, and might be converted into various articles of uſeful manufacture;—Mr Jeremie ſays, that ſtockings made of it are finer than ſilk: Its tail is only three inches long, and is covered with long hairs, of which the Eſquimaux Indians make caps; which are ſo contrived, that the long hair, falling round their faces, defends them from the bites of the muſquitos: Its horns are cloſe at the baſe, and bend downwards, turning out at the points; they are two feet long, and two feet round at the baſe; ſome of them will weigh ſixty pounds.

Theſe animals delight chiefly in rocky and mountainous countries. They run nimbly, and are very active in climbing ſteep aſcents.

THE SHEEP.

THE Sheep, in its preſent domeſtic ſtate, ſeems ſo far removed from a ſtate of nature, that it may be deemed a difficult matter to point out its origin. Climate, food, and above all, the unwearied arts of cultivation, contribute to render this animal, in a peculiar manner, the creature of man; to whom it is obliged to truſt entirely for its protection, and to whoſe neceſſities it largely contributes. Though ſingularly inoffenſive, and harmleſs even to a proverb, it does not appear to be that ſtupid, inanimate creature, deſcribed by Buffon, "devoid of every neceſſary art of ſelf-preſervation, without courage, and even deprived of every inſtinctive faculty, we are led to conclude, that the Sheep, of all other animals, is the moſt contemptible and ſtupid:" But amidſt thoſe numerous flocks which range without controul on extenſive mountains, where they ſeldom depend upon the aid of the ſhepherd, it will be found to aſſume a very different character: In thoſe ſituations, a Ram or a Wedder will boldly attack a ſingle Dog, and often comes off victorious; but when the danger is more alarming, they have recourſe to the collected ſtrength of the whole flock. On ſuch occaſions, they draw up into a compact body, placing the young and the females in the center; while the males take the foremoſt ranks, keeping cloſe by each other. Thus an armed front is preſented to all quarters, and cannot eaſily be attacked without danger of deſtruction to the aſſailant. In this manner, they wait with firmneſs the approach of the enemy; nor does their courage fail them in the moment of attack: For, when the aggreſſor advances within a few yards of the line, the Rams dart upon him with ſuch impetuoſity, as lays him dead at their feet, unleſs he ſave himſelf by flight. Againſt the attacks of ſingle Dogs or Foxes, when in this ſituation, they are perfectly ſecure.—A Ram, regardleſs of danger, will ſometimes engage a Bull; and his forehead being much harder than that of any other animal, he ſeldom fails to conquer: For the Bull, by lowering his head, receives the ſtroke of the Ram between his eyes, which uſually brings him to the ground.

In the ſelection of their food, few animals diſcover greater ſagacity than the Sheep; nor does any domeſtic animal ſhew more dexterity and cunning in its attempts to elude the vigilance of the ſhepherd, in order to ſteal ſuch delicacies as are agreeable to its palate.

Beſides its hardineſs in enduring great ſeverities of weather, the natural inſtinct of the Sheep, in foreſeeing the approach of a ſtorm, is no leſs remarkable: In their endeavours to ſecure themſelves under the ſhelter of ſome hill, whole flocks have frequently been buried for many days under a covering of ſnow, and have afterwards been taken out without any material injury. Thus beautifully deſcribed by Thomſon:—

——————" Oft the whirlwind's wing
" Sweeps up the burthen of whole wintry plains
" At one wide waft; and o'er the hapleſs flocks,
" Hid in the hollow of two neighbouring hills,
" The billowy tempeſt whelms."————

There have been inſtances, where Sheep, at the approach of a ſtorm, have fled for ſhelter to a neighbouring cottage, and taken refuge under the ſame roof with their ſhepherd.

The variety in this creature is ſo great, that ſcarcely any two countries produce Sheep of the ſame kind: There is found a manifeſt difference in all, either in the ſize, the covering, the ſhape, or the horns.

The *woolly Sheep* is found only in Europe, and in the temperate provinces of Aſia. When tranſported into warmer climates, it loſes its wool, and becomes hairy and rough: It is likewiſe leſs fertile; and its fleſh no longer retains the ſame flavour.

No country produces finer Sheep than Great-Britain: Their fleeces are large, and well adapted to the various purpoſes of cloathing. The Spaniſh fleeces are indeed finer, but ſtand in no degree of compariſon with thoſe of Lincolnſhire or Warwickſhire for weight or utility.—In Edward the Third's time, when wool was allowed to be exported, it brought 150,000l. per annum, at 2l. 10s. a pack, which was a great ſum in thoſe days. At this time, when our woollen manufactory ſtands unrivalled by any nation in the world, and every method is taken to prevent this valuable commodity from being ſent out of the kingdom, the annual value of wool, ſhorn in England, is ſuppoſed to be about five millions ſterling; and, when manufactured conjointly with the Spaniſh wool imported, amounting to about ſix hundred thouſand pounds, muſt be above twenty millions.

Like other ruminating animals, the Sheep wants the upper fore teeth: It has eight in the lower jaw; two of which drop out, and are replaced at two years old; four of them are renewed at three years, and the remainder at the age of four.

The Ewe produces one or two lambs at a time, and ſometimes, though rarely, three or four. She bears her young five months, and brings forth in the ſpring *.—The Ram lives to the age of about fifteen years, and begins to procreate at one. When caſtrated, they are called Wedders. They then grow ſooner fat; and the fleſh becomes finer and better flavoured.

There is hardly any part of this animal that is not ſerviceable to man: Of the fleece we make our cloaths; the ſkin produces leather, of which are made gloves, parchment, and covers for books; the entrails are formed into ſtrings for fiddles and other muſical inſtruments, likewiſe coverings for whips; its milk affords both butter and cheeſe; and its fleſh is a delicate and wholeſome food.

The following remarks, taken from Mr Cully's "Obſervations on Live Stock," will not be unacceptable to

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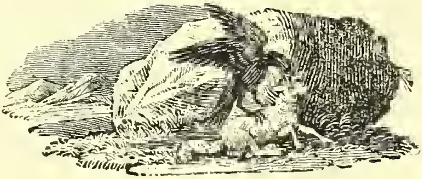
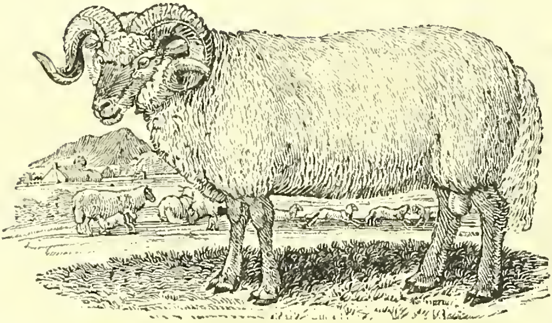
* An Ewe, of the ſmall black-faced Scotch breed, produced two ewe lambs before ſhe had compleated her firſt year; and before the end of the ſecond year, theſe two produced each of them two lambs alſo. It is a remarkable circumſtance, that this great increaſe took place in the coldeſt and moſt mountainous part of Northumberland; and it is further neceſſary to obſerve, that this breed of Sheep ſeldom produces more than one lamb at a time, and that not till they are two years of age.

many of our readers, as they convey a juſt idea of ſome of the moſt noted kinds of Sheep at this time in the iſland.—He begins with thoſe of Lincolnſhire, which are of a large ſize, big-boned, and afford a greater quantity of wool than any other kind, owing to the rich, fat marſhes on which they feed; but their fleſh is coarſe, leaner, and not ſo finely flavoured as that of ſmaller Sheep. The ſame breed extends, with ſome variations, through moſt of the midland counties of England.—But the largeſt breed of Sheep, in this iſland, is to be met with on the banks of the Tees, which runs through a rich and fertile country, dividing the two counties of Yorkſhire and Durham. This kind differs from the preceding, in their wool not being ſo long and heavy; their legs are longer, but finer boned, and ſupport a thicker, firmer carcaſe; their fleſh is likewiſe much fatter, and finer grained. Theſe Sheep weigh from twenty-five to forty-five pounds per quarter; ſome have been fed to fifty pounds; and one in particular was killed, which weighed ſixty-two pounds ten ounces per quarter, avoirdupois—a circumſtance never before heard of in this iſland. The Ewes of this breed generally bring forth two lambs each ſeaſon; ſometimes three, four, and even five. As an inſtance of extraordinary fecundity, it deſerves to be mentioned, that one of theſe Ewes, at the age of two years, brought forth four lambs at one time; the next ſeaſon five,—both within eleven months.—The Dorſetſhire breed is likewiſe remarkably prolific, the Ewes being capable of bringing forth twice a year. It is from theſe, that the tables of our nobility and gentry are ſupplied with early lamb at Chriſtmas, or ſooner if required. Great numbers of thoſe early victims to luxury are yearly ſent to the London markets, where they are ſold at the enormous price of 10s. 6d. or perhaps 15s. per quarter.—The manner of rearing the lambs is curious: They are impriſoned in little dark cabins; the Ewes are fed with oil-cakes, hay, corn, turnips, cabbages, or any other food which the ſeaſon of the year affords; theſe are given them in a field contiguous to the apartments where the lambs are kept; and, at proper intervals, the nurſes are brought in to give ſuck to their young ones; while the attendants, at the ſame time, make their lodgings perfectly clean, and litter them with freſh ſtraw. Great attention is paid to this, as much of the ſucceſs of rearing theſe unſeaſonable productions depends upon warmth and cleanlineſs.

The Dorſetſhire Sheep are moſtly white-faced; their legs are long and ſmall; and great numbers of them have no wool upon their bellies, which gives them an uncouth appearance. They produce a ſmall quantity of wool, but of a good quality; from which our fine Wiltſhire cloths are made. The mutton of theſe Sheep is very ſweet and well flavoured.—The variations of this breed are ſpread through moſt of the ſouthern counties; but the true kind is only to be found in Dorſetſhire and Wiltſhire.—There is a breed, not unlike this, in Norfolk and Suffolk; but they are all grey or black-faced.



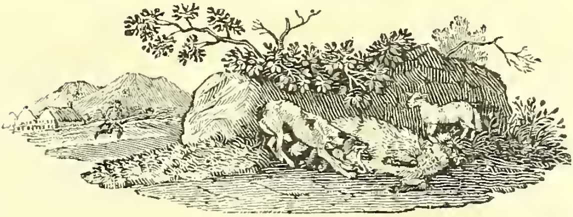


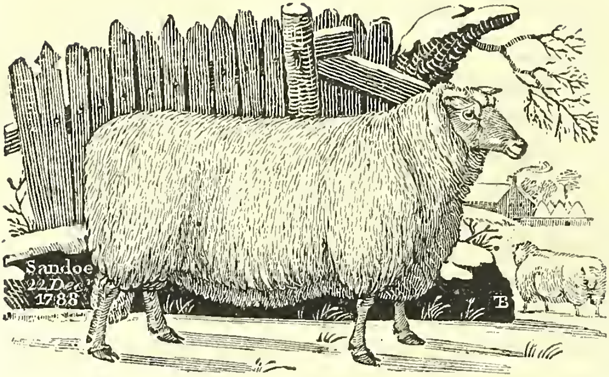
THE BLACK-FACED RAM.

The north-weſt part of Yorkſhire, with all that mountainous tract of country running towards Lancaſhire ſouthward, and to Fort William northward, is occupied by a hardy, black-faced, wild-looking tribe, generally called *ſhort Sheep*, which differ from our other breeds not only in the darkneſs of their complexions and horns, but principally in the coarſe ſhaggy wool which they produce. Their eyes have a very ſharp and wild caſt. They run with great agility, and ſeem quite adapted to the heathy mountains they inhabit. Their fleſh is peculiarly fine and high-flavoured. The three great fairs for theſe Sheep (where amazing numbers of them are ſold every year) are, Stagſhawbank, in Northumberland; Brough, in Weſtmorland; and Linton, in Scotland.—There is likewiſe a breed of Sheep inhabiting the ſame country as the former; but peculiarly diſtinguiſhed from them by long, thin bodies, white legs, white faces, and by having no horns. Their wool is fine, and thickly planted.

The Sheep in the low parts of Northumberland are of a mixed breed, between the long kind, the Tees water, and the Lincolnſhire.—The mug or muff kind was formerly common in that county. They were ſo called, from their wool growing round their heads into their very eyes, ſo as almoſt to prevent them from ſeeing. This breed is now nearly exploded, being conſidered, by every breeder of experience, as unprofitable, from their thriving ſlowly, and being very tender.

In the northern diſtricts of Scotland, and in many of the iſlands, there is a breed of Sheep, which differs from the others in the ſmallneſs of their ſize; many of them, when fed, weighing no more than ſix, ſeven, or eight pounds per quarter. They have dun faces, without horns; and their wool, which is very fine, is variouſly mixed, and ſtreaked with black, brown, and red.





The Leicestershire Improved Breed.

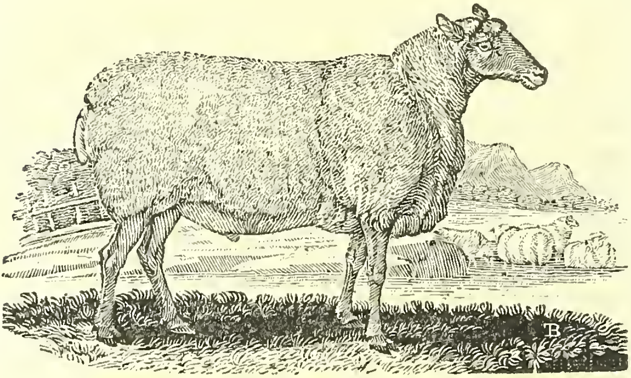
To theſe various and numerous tribes of this uſeful animal, we muſt add, that, by the perſevering induſtry and attention of Mr Bakewell, of Diſhley, in Leiceſterſhire, our breed of Sheep has been greatly improved; and he has been followed by many eminent breeders, with nearly equal ſucceſs.

It ſeems to be generally agreed, that in Sheep, as well as in all other animals, there is a certain ſymmetry or proportion of parts, which is beſt adapted to the ſize of each particular animal: All thoſe of each kind that exceed or fall ſhort of this pitch, are more or leſs diſproportioned, according to the ſize they attain; and in the degree they are advanced beyond this line of perfection, we find them leſs active, weaker, and always leſs able to endure hardſhip. Thus, by ſelecting the handſomeſt and beſt proportioned of their kinds, the judicious breeder has gradually arrived at a degree of perfection in improving this animal, unknown at any former period.

The ſuperior qualities of the Leiceſterſhire breed are, that they will feed quickly fat at almoſt any age, even on indifferent paſtures, and carry the greateſt quantity of mutton upon the ſmalleſt bone. Their carcaſes are round, have remarkably broad backs, and ſhort legs; and to ſhew the immenſe weight to which they may be fed, we give the meaſurement of a Ram of Mr Bakewell's, mentioned by Young in his "Eaſtern Tour:"—At three years old, his girt was five feet ten inches; height, two feet five inches; breadth over his ſhoulders, one foot eleven inches and an half; breadth over his ribs, one foot ten inches and an half; breadth over his hips, one foot nine inches and an half.

The great importance of this breed of Sheep will beſt be ſhewn, by ſtating the following facts reſpecting the modern practice of letting out Rams for hire by the ſeaſon; which, from very ſmall beginnings, has already riſen to an aſtoniſhing height; and is likely, for ſome time, to prove a copious ſource of wealth to the country at large:—About forty years ago, Mr Bakewell let out Rams at ſixteen and ſeventeen ſhillings a-piece; and, from that time, the prices kept gradually riſing from one guinea to ten. But the moſt rapid increaſe has taken place ſince the year 1780. Four hundred guineas have been repeatedly given. Mr Bakewell, in the year 1789, made twelve hundred guineas by three Rams; two thouſand of ſeven; and, of his whole ſtock, three thouſand guineas. Aſtoniſhing as this may appear, it is nevertheleſs an undoubted fact. But it ought to be obſerved, that theſe great prices are not given by graziers, for the purpoſe of improving their grazing ſtock; but by principal breeders, in order to procure a ſtock of Rams of the improved breed, which they let out again to breeders of an inferior claſs. The prices given by graziers, for the ſole purpoſe of getting grazing ſtock, ſeldom exceed ten guineas, which is conſidered as an extraordinary price, five or ſix guineas being moſt frequently given.

This valuable breed has likewiſe found its way into Northumberland. Meſſ. Culley, of Fenton; Mr Thompſon, of Lilburn; and Meſſ. Donkin and Co. of Hexham brewery, with great ſpirit, and at conſiderable expence, have greatly improved their reſpective breeds of Sheep, by an admiſſion of the Diſhley blood.



A WEDDER of Mr Culley's Breed.

We are favoured, by Mr Culley, with the following account of a Wedder of his breed, fed at Fenton, in Northumberland, and killed at Alnwick in October, 1787, when four years old:—His dimenſions were as follow,—girt, four feet eight inches and an half; breadth over his ſhoulders, one foot three inches; over his middle, one foot ſeven inches and a quarter; acroſs the breaſt, from the inſide of one fore leg to the inſide of the other, nine inches. At the dividing of the quarters, through the ribs it meaſured ſeven inches and one-eighth of ſolid fat, cut ſtraight through without any ſlope; and his mutton was of the moſt beautiful bright colour. But in nothing was he ſo remarkable, as in the ſmallneſs of his bones.—The proprietor of this Sheep laments, that he had not the offals exactly weighed (by offals, we would be underſtood to mean not only the tallow, but the head, pluck, and pelt, with the blood and entrails); becauſe it is now well known, that this breed of Sheep have a greater quantity of mutton, in proportion to the offal, than any other kind we know of, and is conſequently cheaper to the conſumer.

[The drawing, from which the preceding cut was taken, was made by Mr Bailey, of Chillingham, ſoon after the Sheep had been ſhorn.]

Before we quit this article, we muſt take notice of a breed of Sheep, which have hitherto been but little known or attended to; although it is probable, they poſſeſs advantages of equal importance with thoſe we have juſt mentioned; and, in all likelihood, they might have continued ſtill longer in the ſame neglected ſtate, but for the endeavours of a ſet of men, who, actuated by a truly patriotic zeal, are labouring to draw out the natural reſources of their country, and ſecure, to the moſt diſtant and long-neglected parts of this kingdom, thoſe permanent advantages, to which they are by their ſituation entitled. In purſuing theſe important objects, the *Highland Society of Scotland* have diſcovered, that the

Shetland iſlands, and ſome parts of the Highlands of Scotland, are in poſſeſſion of a breed of Sheep, which produces wool infinitely ſuperior to that of any other in the kingdom, and equal to the Spaniſh wool in fineneſs and texture. By order of the Society, ſpecimens of theſe Sheep have been obtained, for the purpoſe of a fair inveſtigation into the nature and quality of their wool; which, upon examination, proves much finer than was at firſt imagined.—We are favoured, by Dr James Anderſon, with the following particulars.

THE SHETLAND SHEEP

are handſome, ſmall, and in general hornleſs; and are peculiarly diſtinguiſhed by the unuſual ſhortneſs and ſmallneſs of their tails. They weigh, when fat, from eight to ten pounds per quarter. Their fleeces are, on an average, about two pounds weight. The wool, when properly dreſſed, is of a pure and gloſſy white: Some ſmall ſpecimens of it, compared with Vigognia wool, were allowed, by good judges, to be fully as fine; and, in ſoftneſs, equal to that of which the Indian ſhawls are made. The Sheep producing this fine wool, are ſaid to be of the hardieſt nature: They are never houſed; and, in the winter ſeaſon, are often ſo pinched for food, that they are obliged to feed upon the ſea-ware driven upon the ſhore. Beſides the wool with which they are covered, they have long hairs growing amongſt it, which ſerve to ſhelter it.

It is a ſingular circumſtance, that the Shetland Sheep are never ſhorn; but, about the beginning of June, the wool is pulled off, without the ſmalleſt pain or injury to the animal, leaving the long hairs already mentioned, which contribute to keep the creature warm and comfortable, at a ſeaſon of the year when cold and piercing winds may be expected, in ſo northern a latitude.

From the ſpirited meaſures which are now taking to preſerve this valuable breed *, we are led to hope, that Britiſh wool may in time regain that great ſuperiority for which it was once ſo famous; and that, by perſeverance and attention to this important object, we may in time be enabled to produce not only as fine wool as can be obtained from any other country, but may alſo, in the ſame breed, be able to conjoin with it every other deſirable peculiarity,—ſuch as cloſeneſs of fleece, beauty and utility of form, hardineſs, a capability of being eaſily fattened, largeneſs of ſize, and other valuable qualities, adapted to every peculiarity of ſituation in theſe iſlands.

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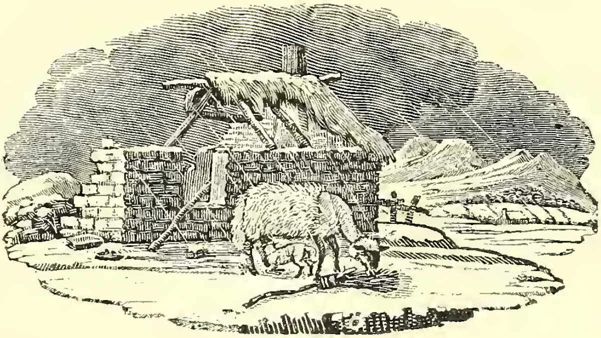
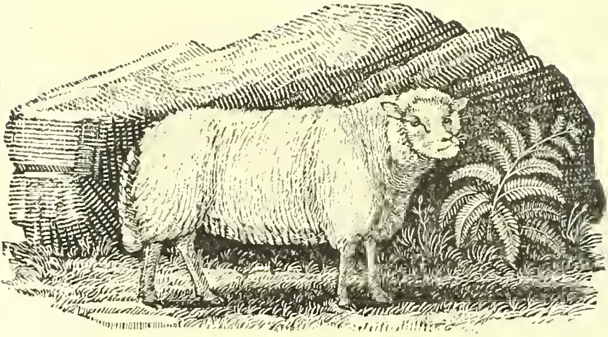
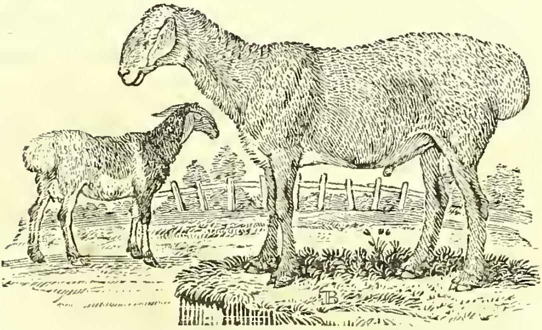
* See the Report of the Committee of the Highland Society, on the ſubject of wool. 1789.





THE DUNKY, OR DWARF SHEEP,

another variety of the Sheep kind, deſerves to be noticed for the ſingular and groteſque formation of its features. The wool, growing round its head, forms a kind of hood or ruff; before which ſtand its ſhort erect ears: The uncommon protruſion of its under jaw conſiderably before the upper, by which the fore teeth are left expoſed, and the ſhortneſs of the noſe, which lies under its high projecting forehead, altogether give it the appearance of deformity, and make a ſtriking contraſt to moſt animals of the Sheep kind. The Ram, from which the drawing was made, came from abroad, with two Ewes, as a preſent to a gentleman in the county of Northumberland. They are very ſmall, and have no horns.——In Lincolnſhire, there is a ſmall kind, mentioned, by Mr Culley, under the name of *Dunkies;* which we ſuppoſe to be the ſame with this.



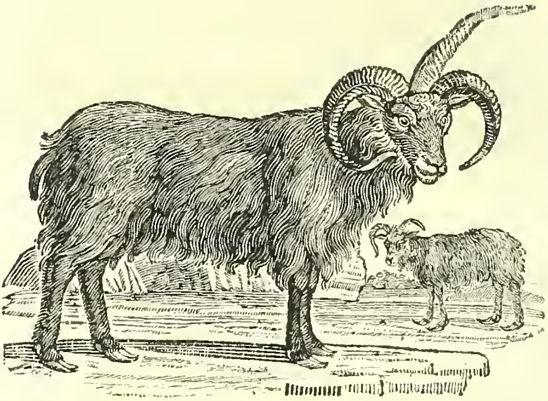
THE TARTARIAN SHEEP.

The Sheep, of which the annexed cut is an accurate repreſentation, ſeem to be the ſame with thoſe deſcribed, by Mr Pennant, under the name of the *fat-rumped Sheep*. A pair of them was brought to this country, by way of Ruſſia, from the borders of Tartary. They are rather larger than the Engliſh Sheep. The colour of the male is roan, or light-brown mixed with white; that of the female, black and white: Their ears are pendulous; and, inſtead of a tail, they have a large protuberance of fat behind, which covers the rump. When the drawing was made, they had juſt been ſhorn; at other times, the wool is ſo long and thick, that their form cannot be well diſtinguiſhed.

The fat-rumped Sheep abound in Tartary; and are annually ſold, in great numbers, into Ruſſia. They are very prolific; and uſually bring forth two at a time, often three.

The *African* or *Guinea Sheep* are found in moſt of the tropical climates. They are large, ſtrong, and ſwift;

with coarſe hairy fleeces, ſhort horns, pendulous ears; have a kind of dew-lap under the chin, and, though domeſticated, ſeem to approach neareſt to a ſtate of nature.

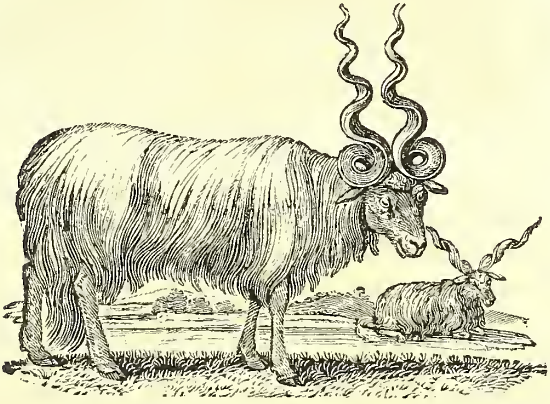


THE MANY-HORNED SHEEP.

The Iceland Sheep, as well as thoſe of Muſcovy and the coldeſt climates of the North, reſemble our own in the form of the body, but differ in the number of their horns, having generally four, and ſometimes eight, growing from the forehead. Their wool is long, ſmooth, and hairy: They are of a dark-brown colour: And, under the outward coat of hair, which drops off at ſtated periods, there is an internal covering reſembling fur, which is fine, ſhort, and ſoft;—the quantity produced by each Sheep, is about four pounds.

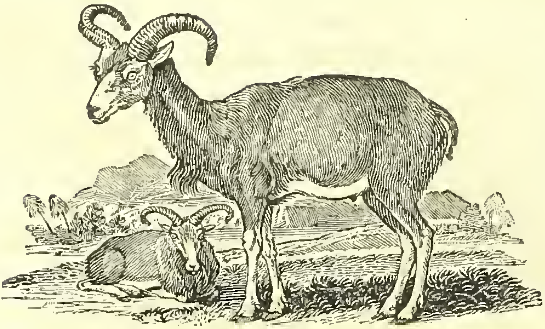
The *broad-tailed Sheep*, common in Perſia, Barbary, Syria, and Egypt, are remarkable chiefly for their large and heavy tails, which grow a foot broad, and ſo long, that the ſhepherds are obliged to put boards with ſmall wheels under them, to keep them from galling. The fleſh of theſe tails is eſteemed a great delicacy: It is of a ſubſtance between fat and marrow, and eaten with the lean of the mutton: They generally weigh from twenty to fifty pounds each.

The *Sheep*, bred on the mountains of Thibet, produce wool of extraordinary length and fineneſs, of which is made the Indian ſhawl, frequently ſold in this country for fifty pounds or upwards.



The Walachian SHEEP.

In Walachia, they have Sheep with curious ſpiral horns, ſtanding upright, in the form of a ſcrew; long ſhaggy fleeces; and, in ſize and form, nearly reſembling ours. They are alſo found in the iſland of Crete, and in many of the iſlands of the Archipelago.—This is ſaid to be the *Strepſicheros* of the ancients.



THE MOUFLON, OR MUSMON,

HAS been claſſed both with the Sheep and the Goat kind; and may be conſidered as ſtanding in a middle place, and forming the link between each: For it is curious to obſerve, that Nature, in all her variations, proceeds by ſlow and almoſt inſenſible degrees, ſcarcely drawing a firm and diſtinguiſhing line between any two races of animals that are eſſentially different, and yet, in many reſpects, nearly allied to each other. In all tranſitions from one kind to the other, there is to be found a middle race, that ſeems to partake of the nature of both, and that can preciſely be referred to neither. Thus it is hard to diſcover where the Sheep kind ends, or the Goat begins.—The Muſmon, therefore, which is neither Sheep nor Goat, has a ſtrong affinity to both. Though covered with hair, it bears a ſtrong ſimilitude to the Ram: Its eyes are placed near the horns; and its ears are ſhorter than thoſe of the Goat: Its horns reſemble thoſe of the Ram, in being of a yellow colour, and a triangular ſhape; they likewiſe bend backward behind the ears: In ſome, they grow to an amazing ſize, meaſuring above two yards long. The general colour of the hair is reddiſh-brown; the inſide of the thighs and belly white, tinctured with yellow; the muzzle and inſide of the ears are of a whitiſh colour; the other parts of the face are of a browniſh-grey.

The Muſmon is found in the wild and uncultivated parts of Greece, Sardinia, Corſica, and in the deſarts of Tartary.

The form of this animal is ſtrong and muſcular; and it runs with great agility. It is very fearful of mankind; and when old is ſeldom taken alive. It frequents the higheſt ſummits of the mountains, and treads ſecurely on the moſt dangerous precipices.—The old Rams have often furious battles with each other, in which one of the contending parties will ſometimes be thrown down from the heights on which they ſtand, and daſhed in pieces at the bottom. If their horns ſhould by accident entangle, they have been known to fall and periſh together.

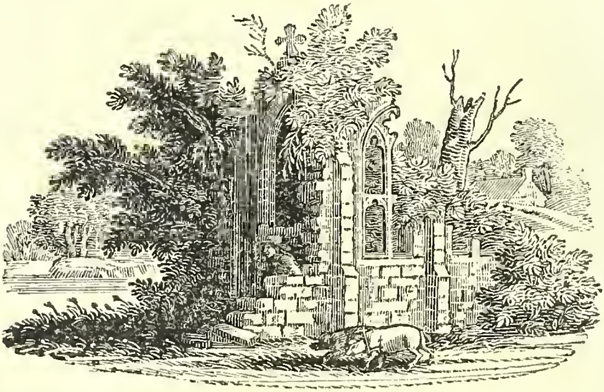
The chaſe of the Muſmon is attended with great danger. At the ſight of a man, they fly to the higheſt parts of the rocks, where they cannot eaſily be followed. They are ſometimes taken in pit-falls. The Tartars purſue them with horſes and dogs; and, ſurrounding a pretty large tract of land, drive them towards the center, where they are caught.

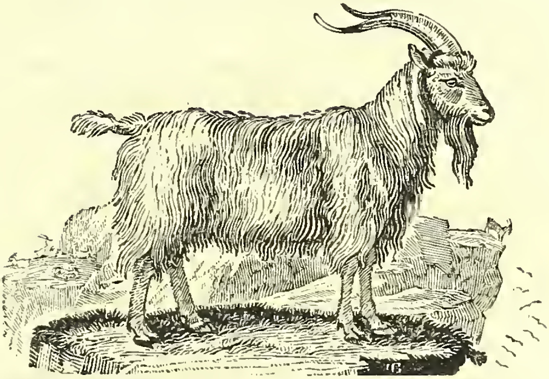
The Kamtſchatkans paſs the latter part of the ſummer, with all their families, among the mountains, in purſuit of theſe animals.—The fleſh and fat of the young Muſmons are eſteemed, by the natives, as moſt delicious eating. The ſkins ſerve them for warm raiments and coverings: The horns are made uſe of for a variety of uſeful purpoſes.

This creature has been known to breed with the Sheep; and, from that circumſtance, is ſuppoſed, by M. Buffon and others, to be the primitive race.

The female of this ſpecies is rather leſs than the male; and her horns never grow to that prodigious ſize.

Thoſe of Kamtſchatka are ſo ſtrong, that ten men can ſcarcely hold one; and the horns ſo large, that young foxes often ſhelter themſelves in the hollow of ſuch as fall off by accident. They grow to the ſize of a young ſtag, copulate in autumn, and bring forth one young at a time, though ſometimes two.





THE COMMON GOAT.

THIS lively, playful, and capricious creature occupies the next ſtep in the great ſcale of Nature; and, though inferior to the Sheep in value, in various inſtances bears a ſtrong affinity to that uſeful animal. The Goat and the Sheep will propagate together: The He-Goat copulates with the Ewe, and the Ram with the She-Goat; the offspring likewiſe is prolific.

The Goat is much more hardy than the Sheep; and is, in every reſpect, more fitted for a life of liberty. It is not eaſily confined to a flock, but chuſes its own paſture, ſtraying wherever its appetite or inclination leads. It chiefly delights in wild and mountainous regions, climbing the loftieſt rocks, and ſtanding ſecure on the verge of inacceſſible and dangerous precipices; although, as Ray obſerves, one would hardly ſuppoſe that their feet were adapted to ſuch perilous achievements; yet, upon a nearer inſpection, we find that Nature has provided them with hoofs well calculated for the purpoſe of climbing, being made hollow underneath, with ſharp edges, like the inſide of a ſpoon, which prevents them from ſliding off the rocky eminences they frequent.

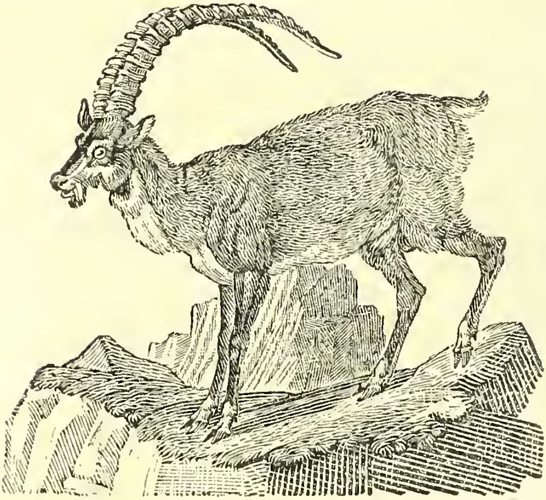
The Goat is an animal eaſily ſuſtained, and is chiefly therefore the property of thoſe who inhabit wild and uncultivated regions, where it finds an ample ſupply of food from the ſpontaneous productions of Nature, in ſituations inacceſſible to other creatures. It delights rather in the heathy mountain, or the ſhrubby rock, than the fields cultivated by human induſtry. Its favourite food is the tops of the boughs, or the tender bark, of young trees. It bears a warm climate better than the Sheep, and frequently ſleeps expoſed to the hotteſt rays of the ſun.

The milk of the Goat is ſweet, nouriſhing, and medicinal, being found highly beneficial in conſumptive caſes: It is not ſo apt to curdle upon the ſtomach as that of the Cow. From the ſhrubs and heath on which it feeds, the milk of the Goat acquires a flavour and wildneſs of taſte very different from that of either the Sheep or Cow, and is highly pleaſing to ſuch as have accuſtomed themſelves to its uſe: It is made into whey for thoſe whoſe digeſtion is too weak to bear it in its primitive ſtate. Several places in the North of England and the mountainous parts of Scotland are much reſorted to for the purpoſe of drinking the milk of the Goat; and its effects have been often ſalutary in vitiated and debilitated habits.

In many parts of Ireland, and in the Highlands of Scotland, their Goats make the chief poſſeſſions of the inhabitants; and, in moſt of the mountainous parts of Europe, ſupply the natives with many of the neceſſaries of life: They lie upon beds made of their ſkins, which are ſoft, clean, and wholeſome; they live upon their milk, and oat bread; they convert part of it into butter, and ſome into cheeſe. The fleſh of the kid is conſidered as a great rarity; and, when properly prepared, is eſteemed, by ſome, as little inferior to veniſon.

The Goat produces generally two young at a time, ſometimes three, rarely four: In warmer climates, it is more prolific, and produces four or five at once; though the breed is found to degenerate. The male is capable of propagating at one year old, and the female at ſeven months; but the fruits of a generation ſo premature are generally weak and defective: Their beſt time is at the age of two years, or eighteen months at leaſt.

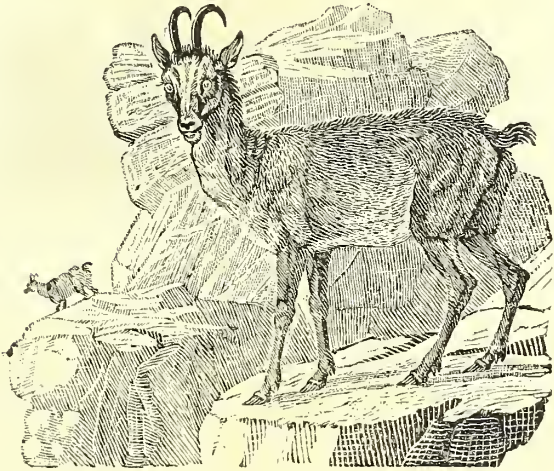
The Goat is a ſhort-lived animal, full of ardour, but ſoon enervated. His appetite for the female is exceſſive, ſo that one buck is ſufficient for one hundred and fifty females.



THE IBEX,

if we believe M. Buffon, is the ſtock from whence our domeſtic Goat is deſcended, being very ſimilar to it in the ſhape of its body, but differing conſiderably in the ſize of its horns, which are much larger: They are bent backward, and full of knots; and every year the creature lives, it is aſſerted, one is added to the number of them. Some of theſe horns have been found at leaſt two yards long.—The head of the Ibex is ſmall, adorned with a duſky beard; and has a thick coat of hair of a deep-brown colour, mixed with aſh: A ſtreak of black runs along the top of its back: The belly and thighs are of a delicate fawn colour.

The Ibex inhabits the higheſt Alps of the Griſons' country and the Vallais, and is alſo found in Crete. They are very wild, and difficult to be ſhot; and as they always keep on the higheſt points of the rocks, the chaſe of them is attended with great danger: Being very ſtrong, they often turn upon the incautious huntſman, and tumble him down the precipice, unleſs he have time to lie down, and let the animal paſs over him. They bring forth one young at a time, ſeldom two; and are ſaid not to be long-lived.



THE CHAMOIS-GOAT.

The Chamois, though a wild animal, is very eaſily made tame and docile. It is to be found only in rocky and mountainous places; is about the ſize of the domeſtic Goat, and reſembles it in many reſpects. It is moſt agreeably lively, and active beyond expreſſion.—The hair is ſhort, like that of the Doe: In ſpring, it is of an aſh colour; in autumn, dun, inclining to black; and in winter, of a blackiſh-brown.

This animal is found, in great plenty, in the mountains of Dauphiny, Piedmont, Savoy, Switzerland, and Germany. They are very gentle, and live in ſociety with each other. They are found in flocks of from four to fourſcore, and even an hundred, diſperſed upon the crags of the mountains. The large males are ſeen feeding, detached from the reſt; except in rutting time, when they approach the females, and drive away the young. The time of their coupling is from the beginning of October to the end of November; and they bring forth in March and April. The young keep with the dam for about five months, and ſometimes longer, if the hunters and the wolves do not ſeparate them. It is aſſerted, that they live between twenty and thirty years. Their fleſh is good to eat; and they yield ten or twelve pounds of ſuet, which far ſurpaſſes that of the Goat in hardneſs and goodneſs.

The Chamois has ſcarcely any cry: It has a kind of feeble bleat, by which the parent calls its young: But in caſes of danger, and when it is to warn the reſt of the flock, it uſes a hiſſing noiſe, which is heard at a great diſtance: For it is to be obſerved, that this creature is extremely vigilant, and has an eye remarkably quick and piercing: Its ſmell alſo is not leſs diſtinguiſhing. When it ſees its enemy diſtinctly, it ſtops for a moment; and then, if the perſon be near, in an inſtant flies off. In the ſame manner, by its ſmell, it can diſcover a man at half a league diſtance, and gives the earlieſt notice. Upon any alarm, therefore, or any apprehenſions of danger, the Chamois begins his hiſſing note with ſuch force, that the rocks and the foreſts re-echo the ſound. The firſt hiſs continues as long as the time of one reſpiration: In the beginning, it is very ſharp, and deeper towards the cloſe. The animal having, after this firſt alarm, repoſed a moment, again looks round; and, perceiving the reality of its fears, continues to hiſs by intervals, until it has ſpread the alarm to a very great diſtance. During this time, it ſeems in the moſt violent agitation; it ſtrikes the ground with one fore foot, and ſometimes with both; it bounds from rock to rock, turns and looks round, runs to the edge of the precipice, and, ſtill perceiving the enemy, flies with all its ſpeed. The hiſſing of the male is much louder and ſharper than that of the female: It is performed through the noſe, and is properly no more than a very ſtrong breath driven violently through a ſmall aperture.

The Chamois feeds upon the beſt herbage, and chuſes the moſt delicate parts of the plants, the flowers, and the tender buds. It is not leſs delicate with regard to ſeveral aromatic herbs, which grow upon the ſides of the mountains. It drinks very little whilſt it feeds upon the ſucculent herbage, and chews the cud in the intervals of feeding.

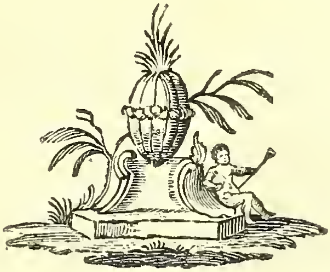
This animal is greatly admired for the beauty of its eyes, which are round and ſparkling, and mark the warmth of its conſtitution. Its head is furniſhed with two ſmall horns of about half a foot long, of a beautiful black, riſing from the forehead almoſt betwixt the eyes: Theſe, contrary to thoſe on almoſt all other animals, inſtead of going backwards or ſideways, ſtand forward, and bend a little backward at their extremities, ending in a very ſharp point. The ears are placed in a very elegant manner, near the horns; and there are two ſtripes of black on each ſide of the face, the reſt being of a whitiſh-yellow, which never changes. The horns of the female are leſs, and not ſo much bent: The natives have been known to bleed cattle with them.

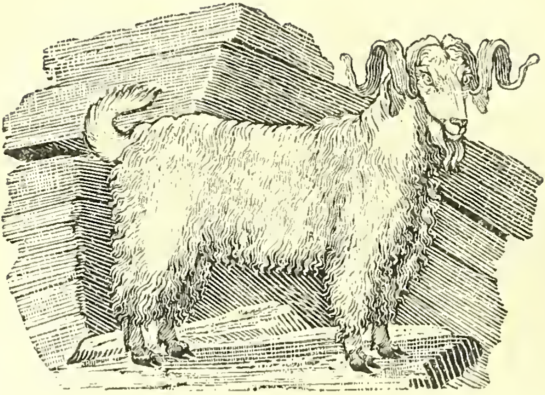
Theſe animals are ſo much incommoded by heat, that they are never found in ſummer, except in the caverns of rocks, amidſt fragments of unmelted ice, under the ſhade of high and ſpreading trees, or of rough and hanging precipices, that face the North, and keep off entirely the rays of the ſun. They go to paſture both morning and evening, and ſeldom during the heat of the day. They run along the rocks with great eaſe and ſeeming indifference, and leap from one to another, ſo that no dogs are able to purſue them. Nothing can be more extraordinary than the facility with which they climb and deſcend precipices, that, to all other quadrupeds, are inacceſſible: They always mount or deſcend in an oblique direction, and throw themſelves down a rock of thirty feet, and light with great ſecurity upon ſome excreſcence or fragment, on the ſide of the precipice, which is juſt large enough to place their feet upon: They ſtrike the rock, however, in their deſcent, with their feet, three or four times, to ſtop the velocity of their motion; and, when they have got upon the baſe below, they at once ſeem fixed and ſecure. In fact, to ſee them jump in this manner, they ſeem rather to have wings than legs. Certain it is, that their legs are formed for this arduous employment; the hind being rather longer than the fore legs, and bending in ſuch a manner, that, when they deſcend upon them, they break the force of the fall.

During the rigours of winter, the Chamois ſleeps in the thicker foreſts, and feeds upon the ſhrubs and the buds of the pine-tree.

The hunting the Chamois is very laborious, and extremely difficult. The moſt uſual way is to ſhoot them from behind the clefts of the rocks. Some alſo purſue them as they do the Stag, by placing proper perſons at all the paſſages of a glade or valley, and then ſending in others to rouſe the game. Dogs are quite uſeleſs in this chaſe, as they rather alarm than overtake: Nor is it without danger even to the men; for it often happens, that, when the animal finds itſelf overpreſſed, it drives at the hunter with its head, and often tumbles him down an adjoining precipice.—The Chamois cannot go upon ice when ſmooth; but if there be the leaſt inequalities on its ſurface, it then bounds along in ſecurity, and quickly evades all purſuit.

The ſkin of the Chamois was once famous, when tanned, for its ſoftneſs and warmth: At preſent, however, ſince the art of tanning has been brought to greater perfection, the leather called *ſhammoy*, is made alſo from thoſe of the tame Goat, the Sheep, and the Deer.



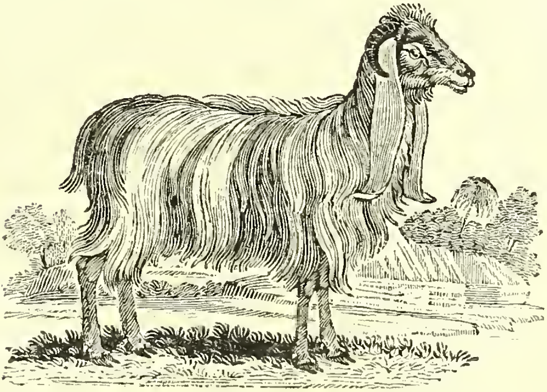


THE GOAT OF ANGORA

is well known for its long hair, which is thick, gloſſy, of a dazzling whiteneſs, and ſo fine, that cloths as beautiful as ſilk, known among us by the name of *camblets*, are made of it. Its ears are long and pendulous. The male is furniſhed with horns, curiouſly twiſted, which proceed horizontally from each ſide of the head, forming a ſcrew; thoſe of the female are ſhorter, and encircle the ear ſomewhat like thoſe of the common Ram. They inhabit the rocky mountains of Pontus, where they experience a conſiderable degree of cold; and might thrive in Britain as well as in their native country.—The ſame might be ſaid of the *Goat of Thibet*, ſo famous for the fineneſs of its wool. It lives in a climate colder than ours in winter, and might probably be tranſplanted with ſucceſs.

In Portugal, there is a breed of fine large *Goats*, remarkable for yielding a great quantity of milk,—a gallon and a half per day. Theſe, if introduced into our navy, might be of infinite ſervice in long voyages.

Experiments of this kind would certainly be attended with many great advantages; and it were much to be wiſhed, that the great and opulent would employ ſome portion of their time and affluence in procuring, from diſtant countries, ſuch uſeful animals as would propagate in our iſland, and are yet unknown in it. By this means, many of our lofty mountains might contribute to ſupport a variety of uſeful creatures, that would, at the ſame time, beautify the moſt barren and rugged parts of our country.



THE SYRIAN GOAT,

which M. Buffon makes a variety of the Goat of Angora, differs from ours in nothing more than the length of its ears, which are pendulous, and from one to two feet long: They are often troubleſome to the creature in feeding; for which reaſon, the owners are ſometimes obliged to cut one of them off. Their horns are ſhort and black.—They are very numerous in the neighbourhood of Aleppo, and ſupply the inhabitants with milk, which they prefer to that of the Cow or the Buffalo.

Theſe are the principal varieties of the Goat kind; of which there are others of leſs note; ſuch as the *African Goat*, or *Buck of Juda*, which is much ſmaller than the domeſtic kind, being not much larger than a hare, extremely fat, and its fleſh well taſted: The horns are ſhort, ſmooth, and turn a little forward. It is common in Guinea, Angola, and all along the coaſt of Africa.

In America, there are *Goats* of a ſmall kind, not much larger than a kid, with long hair: The horns, which are ſhort and thick, bend downwards ſo cloſe to the head, as almoſt to penetrate the ſkull. Theſe are, in every reſpect, ſimilar to the dwarf Goat found in Africa; and, according to Buffon, have been ſent from that country. —It is certain, that, before the diſcovery of America by the Spaniards, the Goat, and every other domeſtic animal, were unknown there.

THE GAZELLES, OR ANTELOPES,

ARE a numerous and beautiful race of animals, inhabiting the hotteſt parts of the globe. They are claſſed, by ſyſtematic writers, with the Goat kind; and, like them, have hollow horns, which they never caſt: In other reſpects, they greatly reſemble the Deer; eſpecially in the elegance of their form, and the ſwiftneſs of their motions. They are of a reſtleſs and timid diſpoſition, remarkably agile; and moſt of their boundings ſo light and elaſtic, as to ſtrike the ſpectators with aſtoniſhment.

Of all animals, the Gazelle has the moſt beautiful eye; to which the eaſtern poets have made frequent alluſions, in deſcribing thoſe of their favourite beauties.

The diſtinguiſhing marks of this tribe of animals, in which they differ both from the Goat and Deer, are principally theſe:—Their horns are different, being annulated or ringed round, and at the ſame time marked with longitudinal depreſſions or furrows, running from the baſe to the point: Beſides the extreme beauty and meekneſs of its aſpect, the Gazelle is more delicately and finely limbed than the Roe-buck; its hair is finer and more gloſſy: Its ſwiftneſs is ſo great, that the Greyhound, the fleeteſt of Dogs, is unequal to the courſe; and the ſportſman is obliged to call in the aid of the Falcon, which, being trained to the work, ſeizes on the animal, and impedes its motion, ſo as to enable the Dogs to overtake it. In India and Perſia, a ſort of Leopard is ſometimes made uſe of in the chaſe, which takes its prey by the greatneſs of its ſprings; but ſhould he fail in his firſt eſſay, the game eſcapes.

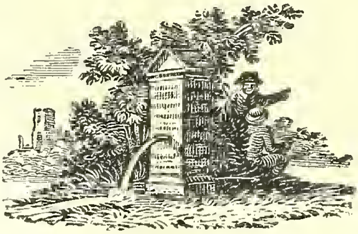
Some ſpecies of the Antelope form herds of two or three thouſand, while others keep in ſmall troops of five or ſix. They for the moſt part live in hilly countries, though ſome inhabit plains. They often browſe like the Goat, and feed on the tender ſhoots of young trees, which give their fleſh an excellent flavour.

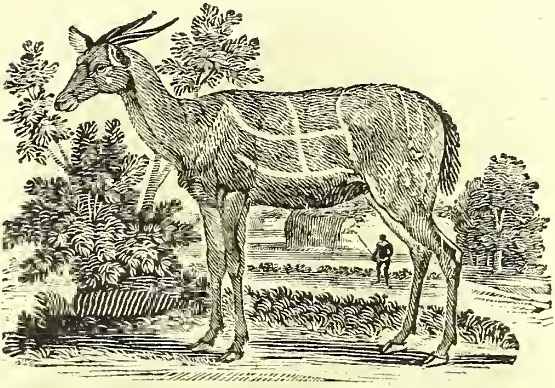
There are many varieties of this animal; ſome of them little known or deſcribed.—We ſhall begin with

THE BLUE-GOAT,

which Mr Pennant conſiders as being next to the Goat, from the length of its hair, and form of its horns.

The colour of this creature is a fine blue, reſembling velvet; but when dead, it is ſaid to change to a bluiſh-grey: Its belly is white; and beneath each eye, it has a large white mark: Its tail is ſeven inches in length, with long hairs at the end: Its horns incline backward, forming a curve; three-fourths of their length are decorated with twenty-four rings; the uppermoſt quarter is ſmooth, and runs tapering to a point. It inhabits the hotteſt parts of Africa.—Sparrman deſcribes one which he ſaw at the Cape of Good Hope, and calls it a *Blaaw-bok*.

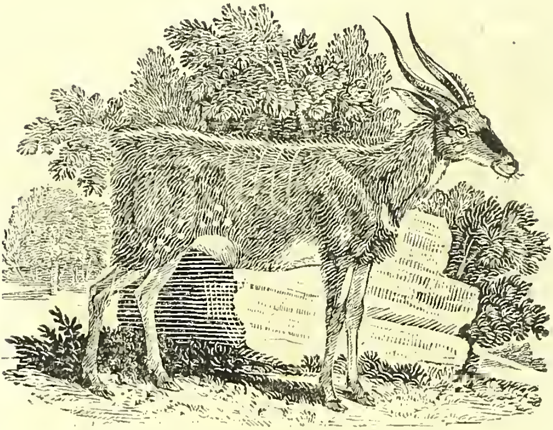




THE PIED-GOAT

is likewiſe an inhabitant of the ſame country, as well as the plains and woods of Senegal, where large herds of them are to be ſeen.

This animal is remarkable for having a white band running along each of its ſides, croſſed by two others from the back to the belly, diſpoſed ſomewhat like a harneſs, from whence it is called the *Harneſſed Antelope:* On each ſide of the rump, it has three white lines pointing downward; its thighs are ſpotted with white; the colour of the body is a deep-tawny, and beneath each eye there is a white ſpot; its horns are ſtraight, nine inches long, pointing backward, with two ſpiral ribs. Great flocks of them are found in the plains and woods of the country of Poder, in Africa.—It is called, by M. Buffon, the *Guib;* and, by Sparrman, the *Bonti-bok*, or *Spotted Goat.*



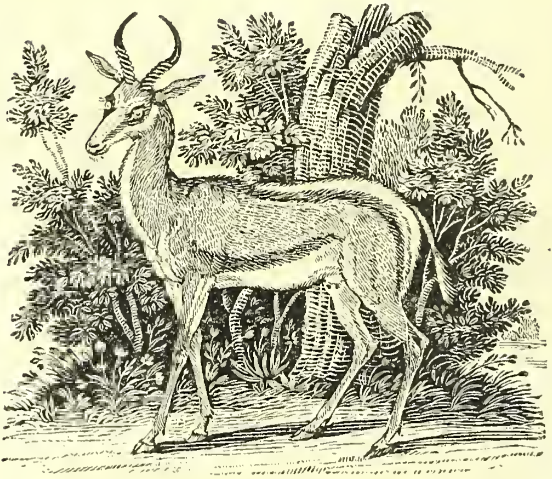
THE WOOD-GOAT.

We are indebted to the indefatigable labours of Dr Sparrman, for an accurate deſcription of this rare animal, which is found in the country about the Cape of Good Hope, and lives chiefly in woods and groves, from whence it derives its name.

The horns of this animal are black, ſomewhat more than ten inches long, and have three ſides wreathed in a ſpiral direction towards the top; at the bottom, they are rough, in conſequence of a number of wavy rings, which however are not elevated much above the ſurface; at the top, they are round, ſharp-pointed, and in that part as ſmooth as if they had been poliſhed; their poſition is almoſt in the ſame line with the forehead, inclining a little forwards, and, by means of the twiſt they make, recede from each other towards the middle, where they are three inches and a half diſtant; at the baſe, they are only one inch.

The Wood-Goat is ſomewhat more than two feet and a half high, of a dark-brown colour, in ſome parts bordering upon black: On each cheek-bone there are two large round white ſpots; another, ſtill larger, occupies the fore part of the neck, ſomewhat below the top of the windpipe; and ſeveral ſmaller white ſpots are ſcattered over the haunches: A narrow line of white hair extends from the neck all along the back and tail, but is not eaſily diſtinguiſhed, being hid by the length of the dark-brown hairs on the top of the back, which are three or four inches long, ſo as to form a kind of mane: The hair on the head is very ſhort and fine; in other parts of the body, it is longer, reſembling that of Goats: Its tail is not more than a finger's breadth in length, covered with long hairs, which extend down the hind part of the thighs and buttocks; the legs and feet are ſlender; the fetlock joints are likewiſe ſmall; the noſe and under lip, which are white, are decorated with black whiſkers about an inch long.

As this creature runs but ſlowly, it is ſometimes caught with dogs. When it finds there is no other reſource, it boldly puts itſelf into a poſture of defence; and, when going to butt, kneels down, and in that poſition ſells its life at a very dear rate, killing and goring ſome of the beſt and moſt ſpirited hounds. It carries its head ſtraight forward whilſt it runs, laying its horns upon its neck, to prevent their being entangled in the buſhes, which is ſometimes the caſe. The female is without horns; and, being lighter than the male, runs more freely through the foreſts, and is not ſo eaſily caught. Her breaſt is ſaid to be very plump: But the fleſh of this animal is not very tender.



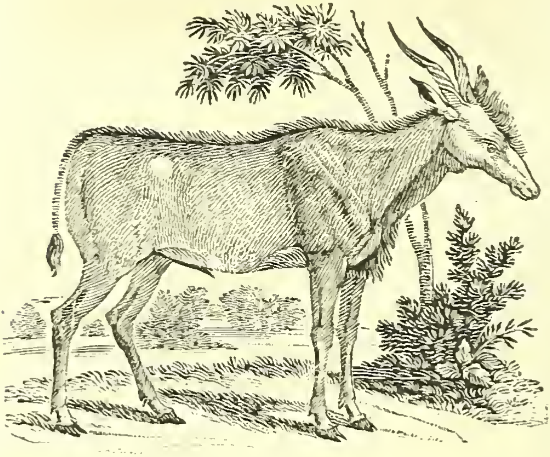
THE SPRINGER.

The *White-Antelope*, which is ſuppoſed to be the ſame with the *Pygarg*, mentioned in the book of Numbers, is an inhabitant of the Cape of Good Hope, where it is called the *Spring-bok;* and is to be ſeen in herds of ſeveral thouſands, covering the plains as far as the eye can reach. Sparrman ſays, that, having ſhot at a large herd of them, they formed a line, and immediately made a circular movement, as if to ſurround him; but afterwards flew off in different directions.

The height of this beautiful creature is two feet and a half; and meaſures, from the ears to the tail, ſomewhat above three feet: The tail is rather leſs than a foot long: The length of the ears, ſix inches and a half; that of the horns, meaſuring them along their curvatures, nine inches; and their diſtance at the baſe, where they are nearly three inches thick, is one inch; they gradually widen from thence to the diſtance of five inches from each other, when they turn inwards, ſo that at the tip they are not above three inches and a half aſunder; they are of a deep-black colour, annulated above half way up; toward the top they are quite ſmooth, and end in a ſharp point.

The predominant colour of this animal is brown, or a light ruſt colour: The breaſt, belly, and inſide of the limbs, are white; as is alſo the head, excepting a dark-brown liſt, which paſſes from each corner of the mouth, over the eyes, to the baſe of the horns: A ſtripe of the ſame dark colour extends, on each ſide, from the ſhoulders to the haunches, forming a boundary between the ſnowy whiteneſs of the belly and the ruſty colour of the ſides: The buttocks are white; and, from the tail half way up the back, is a ſtripe of white, bounded on each ſide by a dark-brown liſt: The tail, at leaſt the lower part of it, is not thicker than a gooſe-quill; the under ſide is quite bare; towards the tip there are a few dark-brown hairs, from one to two inches and a half long: The ears are of an aſh colour, tipt on the edges with fine light-grey hairs: The eye-brows and whiſkers are black: The hair in general is fine and ſhort; but the dark line which borders upon the white, conſiſts of longer hairs, which the animal is able to expand to the breadth of eight or nine inches, particularly on taking a high leap. When purſued, it is no leſs pleaſant than curious to ſee the whole herd jumping over each other's heads to a conſiderable height: Some of them will take three or four high leaps ſucceſſively. In this ſituation, they ſeem ſuſpended in the air, looking over their ſhoulders at their purſuers, and at the ſame time ſhewing the white part of their backs in a moſt beautiful manner.

The Springers are ſo extremely ſwift, as to require a good Horſe to overtake them; although they are ſometimes bold enough to allow a ſportſman, either on foot or on horſeback, to come within gunſhot of them.—Their fleſh is very palatable, and has a more juicy and delicate taſte than that of the other Gazelles.



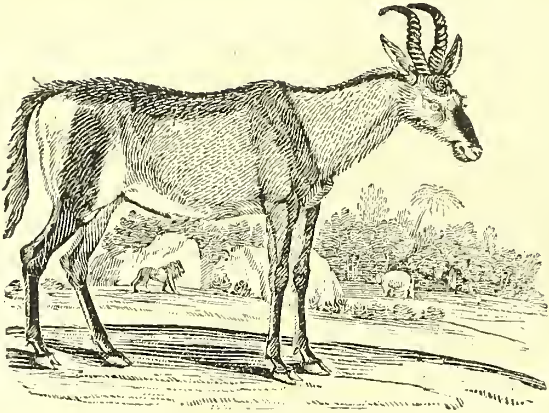
THE ELK-ANTELOPE

is likewiſe an inhabitant of the Cape, as well as the greateſt part of India; and is one of the larger kinds of Gazelles. It has ſtraight horns, two feet in length, of a dark-brown colour, marked with two prominent ſpiral ribs running near two-thirds of their length, but ſmooth towards the ends, which are turned a little inwards: The forehead is flat, and broad at the top; and has a forelock, ſtanding erect, the whole length of it: Its noſe is ſharp; and its breaſt is covered with a looſe ſkin.

This animal is of an aſh colour, inclining a little towards blue; has a thin upright mane, quite black, which extends from the nape of its neck along the top of the back; and has likewiſe a tuft of black hair at the end of the tail.

The Elk-Antelopes live chiefly in plains and vallies; and, when hunted, always run, if poſſible, againſt the wind: They are not very ſwift; and being in general fat, eſpecially the males, which are always the largeſt and fatteſt in the herd, are ſoon tired. The hunter generally endeavours to get to the windward of the animal, which when he has accompliſhed, he takes an opportunity of throwing himſelf from his horſe, and inſtantly ſhoots the flying game: At this practice, the Dutch coloniſts at the Cape are ſo expert, as ſeldom to fail. Sparrman ſays, there have been many inſtances where keen ſportſmen, as well for their own pleaſure as convenience, have hunted Elk-Antelopes and other Gazelles, for many miles together, from the open plains, and driven them to their own doors, before they thought it worth while to ſhoot them.

The female has horns like the male, but ſmaller. They are uſed by the Hottentots for tobacco-pipes.



THE HART-BEEST

is the moſt common of all the larger Gazelles, known in any part of Africa.—The following accurate deſcription is taken from Sparrman, to whom we are indebted for the beſt accounts of ſuch of theſe rare animals as are to be met with near the Cape:—The height of this animal is ſomewhat above four feet: The horns are from ſix to nine inches long, very ſtrong and black, almoſt cloſe at the baſe, diverging upwards, and at the top bending backwards in an horizontal direction almoſt to the tips, which turn a little downwards; they are emboſſed with about eighteen rings of an irregular form. The general colour of the Hart-beeſt is that of cinnamon; the front of the head is marked with black, as is likewiſe the fore part of the legs; the hind part of the haunch is covered with a wide black ſtreak, which reaches down to the knee; a narrow ſtripe of black begins behind each ear, and runs all along the ridge of the neck; a dark-brown oval ſpot extends over the back, terminating juſt above the tail, which is ſlender, ſomewhat like that of an Aſs, and is covered with ſtrong black hairs about ſix inches long: There is a pore about an inch below the eye, from which a matter is diſtilled, ſomewhat like ear-wax, which the Hottentots preſerve as a rare and excellent medicine.

This animal is ſuppoſed to be the *Bubalus* of the ancients; it is the *Cervine Antelope* of Mr Pennant, and the *Bubale* of M. Buffon.

The hair of the Hart-beeſt is very fine; and its long ears are covered with white hair on the inſide: It has only eight teeth in the lower jaw, none in the upper; the legs are rather ſlender, with ſmall fetlocks and hoofs.

The large head and high forehead, together with the aſſinine ears and tail, of the Hart-beeſt, render it one of the leaſt handſome of the whole tribe of Antelopes. Its pace, when at full ſpeed, appears like a heavy gallop; notwithſtanding which, it runs as faſt as any of the large Antelopes. When it has once got a-head of its purſuers, it is very apt to turn round, and ſtare them full in the face.—Its fleſh is fine, rather dry, but of an agreeably high flavour.

THE KOEDOE, OR STRIPED ANTELOPE,

is a beautiful, tall Gazelle, inhabiting the Cape of Good Hope; has long, ſlender ſhanks; is larger, though not ſo clumſy, as the Elk-antelope: Its horns are ſmooth, twiſted ſpirally, with a prominent edge or rib following the wreaths; they are three feet nine inches long, of a pale-brown colour, cloſe at the baſe, and at the points round and ſharp.

The colour of this animal is a ruſty-brown; along the ridge of the back there is a white ſtripe, mixed with brown; from this are eight or nine white ſtripes pointing downwards; the forehead and the fore part of the noſe are brown; a white ſtripe runs from the corner of each eye, and meets juſt above the noſe; upon each cheek-bone there are two ſmall white ſpots; the inner edges of the ears are covered with white hair, and the upper part of the neck is adorned with a brown mane, an inch long; beneath the neck, from the throat to the breaſt, are ſome long hairs hanging down; the breaſt and belly are grey; the tail is two feet long, brown above, white beneath, and black at the end.

The Koedoe, though a tall and ſlender animal, is not ſo ſwift as many of the Gazelle kind, and is eaſily overtaken by the hounds: On theſe occaſions, the males defend themſelves with great ſpirit with their horns, and will come to cloſe quarters with the dogs; but the females, having no horns, are obliged to depend on their ſpeed.

Another of the larger kind of Gazelles, to be found at the Cape, is

THE GEMSE-BOK;

which is called, by Mr Pennant, the *Egyptian Antelope;* and, by M. Buffon, the *Paſan.*—The horns are ſtraight, ſlender, of a black colour, about three feet long, with above twenty rings reaching half way to the points, which are ſmooth and taper; it is of an aſh colour, inclining to red; the belly, legs, and face, are white; a black line extends from the neck to the loins; the tail is about two feet long, terminated with black hairs.

This animal is famous for a concretion in its ſtomach or inteſtines, called the *oriental bezoar*, which was well known in former times for its great virtue in expelling poiſon in the human frame, and was ſold at enormous prices; its value encreaſing in proportion to its ſize. There was a time, when a ſtone of four ounces ſold in Europe for above 200l.; at preſent, however, its eſtimation and price are greatly decreaſed. The virtues which ignorance and inexperience attributed to it, are now found no longer to exiſt; and this once-celebrated medicine is now only conſumed in countries where the knowledge of Nature has been but little advanced.—Similar concretions are likewiſe found in a variety of animals of the Gazelle and Goat kind: Even Apes, Serpents, and Hogs, are ſaid to have their bezoars. In ſhort, there is ſcarcely an animal, except of the carnivorous kind, that does not produce ſome of theſe concretions in the ſtomach, inteſtines, kidnies, and even the heart.

Theſe are the principal animals of the Gazelle kind deſcribed by Dr Sparrman in his voyage to the Cape of Good Hope. He mentions a variety of others that are to be met with there, of which he gives us little but their names.

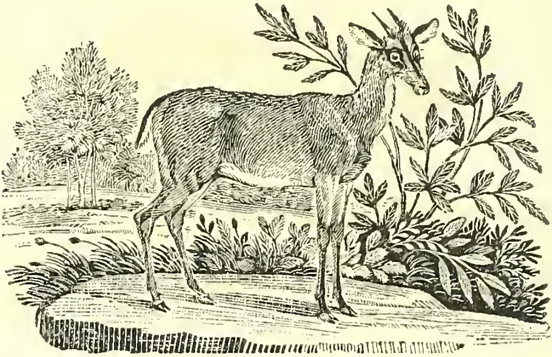
THE REE-BOK

is a gregarious animal; two feet in height; of an aſh colour, ſomewhat reſembling that of a hare, but a little more inclining to red: The belly and anus are white: The tail is ſhort: The horns are black and ſtraight, very ſimilar to thoſe of the Gemſe-bok, but barely a foot long, very taper, and ſharp-pointed; they are uſed by the Hottentots as awls or bodkins for boring holes in making their ſhoes or cloaks.

The fleſh of this animal is dry, and accounted worſe to eat than that of any other Gazelle.

THE RIET-REE-BOK

is twice as big as the laſt-mentioned animal, is monogamous (or keeps in pairs); it generally lies concealed among the reeds and marſhy places, and reſembles the Ree-bok.

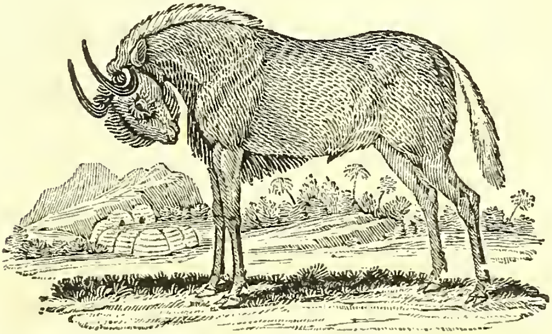


THE GRYS-BOK

is of a greyiſh or aſh colour; with large black ears, and a black ſpot round the eyes; ſtraight black horns, ſlender and ſharp-pointed, not three inches long, ſlightly annulated at the baſe: Its height is about eighteen inches; and it is moſt elegantly formed: Beneath each eye is a cavity, that contains a ſtrong-ſcented oily liquor, which ſmells ſomething like muſk, and, when expoſed to the air, becomes hard and black.—It is the *Guinea Antelope* of Mr Pennant, and the *Grimme* of M. Buffon.

The KLIP-SPRINGER

is of a light-red colour, inclining to yellow, intermixed with black ſtreaks; the tips and edges of its ears are black: It runs with great ſwiftneſs, and makes large bounds, even on the ſteepeſt precipices, and in the moſt rocky places, where it cannot eaſily be caught with hounds.



The GNU.

To theſe we may add the *Gnu*, the Hottentot name for a ſingular animal, which, with reſpect to its form, is between the Horſe and the Ox. It is about the ſize of a common galloway; the length of it being ſomewhat above five feet, and the height rather more than four.

This animal is of a dark-brown colour; the tail and mane of a light-grey; the ſhag on the chin and breaſt, and the ſtiff hairs which ſtand erect on the forehead and upper part of the face, are black: The curvature of the horns is ſingular; and the animal is repreſented in the cut in the attitude of butting, to give an idea of their form and poſition.

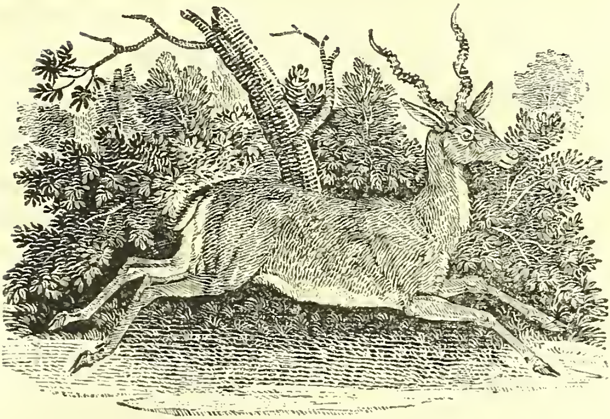
The legs of the Gnu are ſmall; its hair is very fine; and it has a cavity beneath each eye, like moſt of the Antelope kind.

The STEEN-BOK

is found in Senegal, and at the Cape of Good Hope.—Its whole body is of a pale-red colour; it is as large as a Roe-buck; its horns, which do not exceed ſix inches in length, are almoſt ſmooth, and bend a little forward; its ears are five inches long; and it has a white ſpot over each eye.—It is called, by Mr Pennant, the *Red Antelope*; and, by M. Buffon, the *Nagor*.

The NANGUER, or SWIFT-ANTELOPE,

is likewiſe a native of Africa, and is found in Senegal.—It is three feet and a half in length, and two and a half high; the horns are black and round, eight inches in length, and, what is ſingular, bend forward at the points; its general colour is tawny; belly and thighs white; it has likewiſe a white ſpot under the neck, is a very handſome animal, and eaſily tamed; its ſwiftneſs is compared to that of the wind.



The Common ANTELOPE.

The Antelope, properly ſo called, abounds in Barbary, and in all the northern parts of Africa.—It is ſomewhat leſs than the Fallow-deer: Its horns are about ſixteen inches long, ſurrounded with prominent rings almoſt to the top, where they are twelve inches diſtant from point to point. The horns of the Antelope are remarkable for a beautiful double flexion, which gives them the appearance of the lyre of the ancients. The colour of the hair on the back is brown, mixed with red; the belly and inſide of the thighs, white; and the tail ſhort.

The Barbary ANTELOPE

is likewiſe common in all the northern part of Africa, in Syria, and Meſopotamia; and ſeems to be a variety of the laſt-mentioned animal, which it ſtrongly reſembles; only the two colours on the back are ſeparated from each other by a ſtrong duſky line on each ſide, and on each knee there is a tuft of hair.

The KEVEL

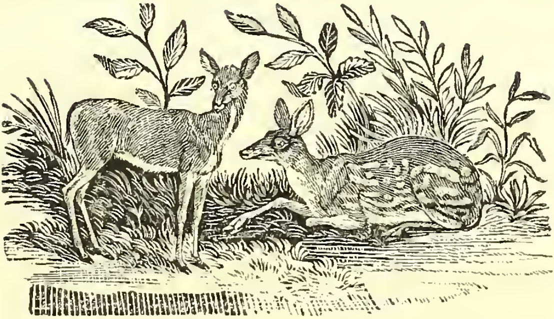
is a native of Senegal; and, in colour and marks, very much reſembles the preceding animal. It is about the ſize of a ſmall Roe-buck; and its horns, inſtead of being round, are flatted on their ſides, and the rings are more numerous. It lives in great flocks, may be eaſily tamed, and is excellent meat.

The CORIN

is ſtill leſs than the two former anmials: Its horns are very ſlender, only ſix inches long, and almoſt ſmooth, the annular prominences being ſcarcely diſcernible; each ſide of its face is marked with a white line, and beneath that a black one; the upper part of the body is tawny; the belly and inſide of the thighs, white; a dark line on each ſide forms a ſeparation between the two colours on the back and belly; on each knee is a tuft of hair. Some of theſe animals are irregularly ſpotted with white.

The KOBA

is remarkable for the form of its horns, which are almoſt cloſe at the baſe, bending out towards the middle, where they form a curve inwards, and again fly off at the points, which bend backward; they are ſeventeen inches long, ſurrounded with fifteen rings; the ends are ſmooth and ſharp.



The CHEVROTAIN and MEMINNA.

The Chevrotain, or little Guinea Deer, is the ſmalleſt of all the Antelope kind, the leaſt of all cloven-footed quadrupeds, and, we may add, the moſt beautiful. Its fore legs, at the ſmalleſt part, are not much thicker than a tobacco-pipe; it is not more than ſeven inches in height, and about twelve from the point of the noſe to the inſertion of the tail; its ears are broad; and its horns, which are ſtraight, and ſcarcely two inches long, are black and ſhining as jet; the colour of the hair is a reddiſh-brown; in ſome a beautiful yellow, very ſhort and gloſſy.

Theſe elegant little creatures are natives of Senegal and the hotteſt parts of Africa; they are likewiſe found in India, and in many of the iſlands adjoining to that vaſt continent.

In Ceylon, there is an animal of this kind called *Meminna*, which is not larger than a hare, but perfectly reſembling a fallow-deer. It is of a grey colour; the ſides and haunches are ſpotted and barred with white; its ears are long and open; and its tail ſhort.

None of theſe ſmall animals can ſubſiſt but in a warm climate. They are ſo extremely delicate, that it is with the utmoſt difficulty they can be brought alive into Europe, where they ſoon periſh. They are gentle, familiar, moſt beautifully formed; and their agility is ſuch, that they will bound over a wall twelve feet high. In Guinea, they are called *Guevei*. The female has no horns.

THE SCYTHIAN ANTELOPE, OR SAIGA,

is the only one of the ſpecies that is to be found in Europe.—The form of its body reſembles the domeſtic Goat; but its horns are thoſe of an Antelope, being marked by very prominent rings, with furrows between; they are a foot long, the ends ſmooth, of a pale-yellow colour, almoſt tranſparent.

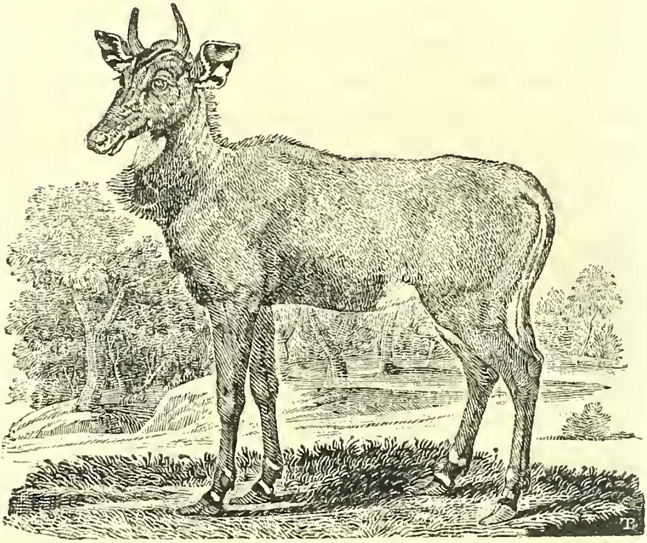
The male, during winter, is covered with long rough hair, like the He-Goat, and has a ſtrong ſcent; the female is ſmoother, and without horns. The general colour is grey, mixed with yellow; the under part of the body, white.

Theſe animals inhabit Poland, Moldavia, about Mount Caucaſus and the Caſpian Sea, and Siberia; are fond of ſalt, and frequent the places where ſalt-ſprings abound. In the rutting ſeaſon, at the latter end of autumn, great flocks of them, conſiſting of ſeveral thouſands, migrate towards the South; and return in the ſpring, in ſmaller flocks, to the great northern deſerts; where the females bring forth their young, and rear them.

The males, the females, and their young, generally feed together; and, when a part of them are reſting, others, by an inſtinctive kind of caution, are always keeping watch; theſe again are relieved in due time;

and, in this manner, they alternately reſt and keep watch; frequently preſerving themſelves, by this means, from the attacks of men and wild beaſts.

Their common pace is a trot; but, when they exert their ſpeed, they bound like the Roe-buck, and exceed it in fleetneſs. They are ſo timid, as to ſuffer themſelves to be taken through fear: If once bitten by a dog, they inſtantly fall down, and give themſelves up without further effort to eſcape.—When taken young, they are eaſily tamed; but the old ones are ſo wild and obſtinate, as to refuſe all food, whilſt in a ſtate of captivity.—They are hunted for the ſake of their fleſh, horns, and ſkins; the latter are excellent for gloves, belts, &c. The huntſman is extremely cautious in approaching a herd of theſe animals, leſt they ſhould diſcover him by the excellency of their ſmell. They are either ſhot, or taken by dogs, and ſometimes by the black eagle, which is trained for that purpoſe. In running, they ſeem to incline to one ſide; and their motion is ſo rapid, that their feet ſeem ſcarcely to touch the ground.



THE NYL-GHAU.

THIS animal is a native of the interior parts of India.—It ſeems to be of a middle nature, between the Cow and the Deer, and carries the appearance of both in its form. In ſize, it is as much ſmaller than the one, as it is larger than the other: Its body, horns, and tail, are not unlike thoſe of a bull; and the head, neck, and legs, are ſimilar to thoſe of a deer. The colour, in general, is aſh or grey, from a mixture of black hairs and white: All along the ridge or edge of the neck, the hair is blacker, longer, and more erect, making a ſhort, thin, and upright mane, reaching down to the hump. Its horns are ſeven inches long, ſix inches round at the root, tapering by degrees, and terminating in a blunt point: The ears are large and beautiful, ſeven inches in length, and ſpread to a conſiderable breadth; they are white on the edge and on the inſide, except where two black bands mark the hollow of the ear with a zebra-like variety. The height of this animal at the ſhoulder is four feet one inch; behind the loins, it only meaſures four feet.

The female differs conſiderably from the male both in height and thickneſs, being much ſmaller; in ſhape and colour, very much reſembling a deer; and has no horns. She has four nipples, and is ſuppoſed to go nine months with young: She commonly has one at a birth, but ſometimes two.

Several of this ſpecies were brought to this country in the year 1767, which continued to breed annually for ſome years after.—Dr Hunter, who had one of them in his cuſtody for ſome time, deſcribes it as a harmleſs and gentle animal; that it ſeemed pleaſed with every kind of familiarity, always licked the hand that either ſtroaked or fed it, and never once attempted to uſe its horns offenſively. It ſeemed to have much dependence on its organs of ſmell, and ſnuffed keenly whenever any perſon came in ſight: It did ſo likewiſe, when food or drink was brought to it; and would not taſte the bread which was offered, if the hand that preſented it happened to ſmell of turpentine.

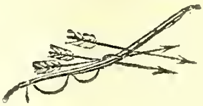
Its manner of fighting is very particular, and is thus deſcribed:—Two of the males at Lord Clive's, being put into an incloſure, were obſerved, while they were at ſome diſtance from each other, to prepare for the attack, by falling down upon their knees: They then ſhuffled towards each other, keeping ſtill upon their knees; and, at the diſtance of a few yards, they made a ſpring, and darted againſt each other with great force.

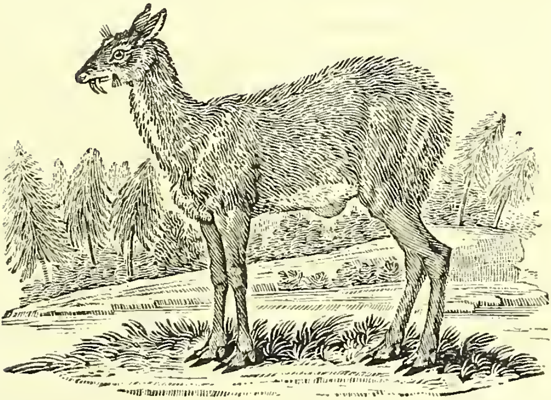
The following anecdote will ſerve to ſhew, that, during the rutting ſeaſon, theſe animals are fierce and vicious, and not to be depended upon:—A labouring man, without knowing that the animal was near him, went up to the outſide of the incloſure; the Nyl-ghau, with the quickneſs of lightning, darted againſt the wood-work with ſuch violence, that he broke it to pieces, and broke off one of his horns cloſe to the root. The death of the animal, which happened ſoon after, was ſuppoſed to be owing to the injury he ſuſtained by the blow.

Bernier ſays, that it is the favourite amuſement of the Mogul emperor to hunt the Nyl-ghau; and that he kills them in great numbers, and diſtributes quarters of them to his omrahs; which ſhews that they are eſteemed good and delicious food.

The Nyl-ghau is frequently brought from the interior parts of Aſia, as a rare and valuable preſent to the nabobs and other great men at our ſettlements in India.

It remains to be conſidered, whether this rare animal might not be propagated with ſucceſs in this country. That it will breed here, is evident from experience; and, if it ſhould prove docile enough to be eaſily trained to labour, its great ſwiftneſs and conſiderable ſtrength might be applied to the moſt valuable purpoſes.





THE MUSK.

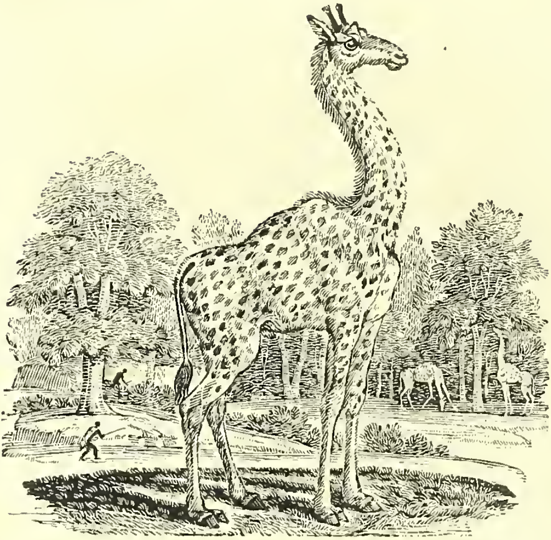
THERE have been various accounts given of this animal by naturaliſts and travellers; by whom it ſeems to have been taken notice of more for the perfume which it produces, than for the information of the curious enquirer into its nature and qualities: For we are ſtill at a loſs what rank to aſſign it among the various tribes of quadrupeds.—It has no horns; and whether it ruminates or not, is uncertain: But, by its wanting the fore teeth in the upper jaw, we are led to ſuppoſe that it belongs either to the Goat or the Deer kind; and have therefore given it a place after the Gazelles, relying upon thoſe characteriſtic marks which are known, and leaving it to thoſe naturaliſts who may be poſſeſſed of better means of information, to aſcertain its genuine character.

The Muſk of Thibet reſembles the Roe-buck in form. It is ſomewhat above two feet in height at the ſhoulder; the hind legs are longer than the fore legs, being two feet nine inches high at the haunches; in length, it is three feet ſix inches from the head to the tail; the head is above half a foot long: Its upper jaw is much larger than the lower; and on each ſide of it there is a ſlender tuſk, near two inches long, which hangs down, bending inwards like a hook, and very ſharp on the inner edge: Its lower jaw contains eight ſmall cutting teeth; and in each jaw there are ſix grinders: Its ears are long, ſmall, and erect, like thoſe of a rabbit: The hair on the whole body is long and rough, marked with ſmall waves from top to bottom: The colour is a ruſty-brown; under the belly and tail it is white: On each ſide of the lower jaw there is a tuft of thick hair, about an inch long: Its hoofs are deeply cloven, ſlender, and black; the ſpurious hoofs are likewiſe very long: Its tail is not more than two inches in length, and hid in the hair.—The uſe it makes of its tuſks is not well known: The moſt probable is that of hooking up roots out of the ground, and catching at ſmall twigs and branches of trees, upon which it feeds.—The female has no tuſks, is leſs than the male, and has two ſmall teats.

The Muſk is found in the kingdom of Thibet, in ſeveral of the Chineſe provinces, about the lake Baikal, and near the rivers Jeniſea and Argun, from lat. 60 to 45; but ſeldom ſo far ſouth, except driven by great falls of ſnow to ſeek for food in more temperate climates.—It is naturally a timid animal, and endowed with a quick ſenſe of hearing. Its ſolitary haunts are uſually mountains, covered with pines; where it avoids mankind, and, when purſued, flies to the higheſt and moſt inacceſſible ſummits.

The perfume produced by this animal, which is ſo well known in the faſhionable circles, and of late ſo much uſed in the practice of phyſic, needs little deſcription. It is found in a bag or tumor, nearly of the ſize of a hen's egg, on the belly of the male only. Theſe bags the hunters cut off, and tie them up for ſale; many thouſands of which are ſent over annually to Europe, beſides what are conſumed in different parts of the Eaſt. To account for this great conſumption, it is ſuppoſed that the muſk is frequently adulterated and mixed with the blood of the animal. It comes to us from China, Tonquin, Bengal, and Muſcovy; but that of Thibet is reckoned the beſt, and ſells at a much higher price.

The fleſh of the males, eſpecially in the rutting ſeaſon, is much infected with the flavour of the muſk; but is, nevertheleſs, eaten by the Ruſſians and Tartars.



THE GIRAFFE, OR CAMELEOPARD.

THIS animal (the exiſtence of which has frequently been called in queſtion) is a native of the wild and unfrequented deſarts of Ethiopia, and other interior parts of Africa; where it leads a ſolitary life, far from the habitations of men; for whoſe uſe it is rendered unfit, by the enormous diſproportion of its parts.—It has hitherto been regarded chiefly as an object of curioſity, and may lead us to admire the wonderful productions of that creative Power which has filled the earth with life in ſuch a boundleſs variety of forms.

The height of this extraordinary animal, from the crown of the head to the ground, is ſeventeen feet; while at the rump it only meaſures nine; the neck alone is ſeven feet long; and the length, from the extremity of the tail to the end of the noſe, is twenty-two feet: The fore and hind legs are nearly of an equal height; but the ſhoulders riſe ſo high, that its back inclines like the roof of a houſe: Its neck is ſlender and elegant, adorned on the upper ſide with a ſhort mane: On the higheſt part of the head, it has two perpendicular horns, ſix inches long, covered with hair, and round at the ends, where they are encompaſſed with a circle of ſhort black hairs*: On the middle of the forehead, there is a protuberance, about two inches high: Its ears are long; and its eyes large and beautiful.

The colour of the male is light-grey, interſperſed with large dark-brown ſpots over the whole body; the ſpots on the female are of a pale-yellow colour.

It is a timid and gentle creature, but not ſwift; from the great length of its fore legs, it is obliged to divide them to a great diſtance when it grazes, which it does with great difficulty; it lives chiefly by browſing on the leaves and tender branches of trees; it lies on its belly, and has hard protuberances on its breaſt and thighs, like the Camel; its tail is ſimilar to that of an Ox, with ſtrong black hair at the end; it is cloven-footed, has no teeth in the upper jaw, and is a ruminating animal.—The female has four teats, and is leſs than the male.

This animal was known to the Romans in early times; and its figure has been handed down to ſucceeding ages in ſome of their moſt celebrated works of ſculpture. It was exhibited in their games, among other rare and uncommon animals; and is finely and juſtly deſcribed by Oppian.

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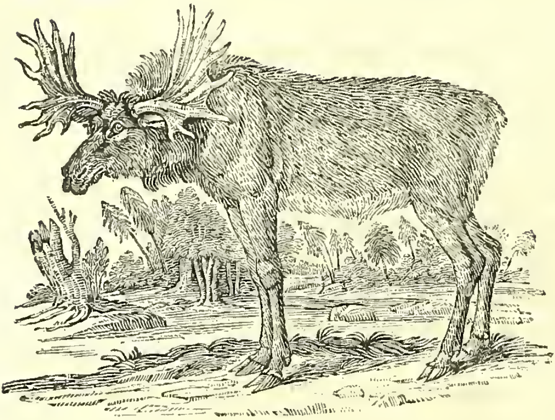
* M. Vaillant, who ſhot ſeveral of theſe animals, ſays, that theſe horns differ from thoſe of the Stag or the Ox, in being formed by a continuation of the bone of the ſkull.



THE ELK

IS the largeſt and moſt formidable of all the Deer kind.—It is a native of both the old and the new continent, being known in Europe by the name of the *Elk*, and in America by that of the *Mooſe-deer*.—It is ſometimes taken in the foreſts of Ruſſia and Germany; though it is rarely to be ſeen, on account of its extreme wildneſs. It likewiſe inhabits Norway, Sweden, Poland, and Tartary, as far as the North of China. It is common in Canada, and in all the northern parts of America.

The Elk has been variouſly deſcribed by naturaliſts and travellers: By ſome, it is ſaid to be twelve feet high; whilſt others, with greater appearance of probability, deſcribe it as being not much higher than a horſe. It is, however, a matter of doubt to which a greater degree of credibility ſhould be given.

From a variety of Elks' horns preſerved in the cabinets of the curious, ſome of which are of a moſt enormous ſize, there is every reaſon to conclude, that the animal which bore them muſt have been of a proportionable bulk and ſtrength.

Thoſe who ſpeak of the gigantic Mooſe, ſay, their horns are ſix feet long, and meaſure, from tip to tip, above ten feet: The beams of the horns are ſhort; from which they ſpread out into large and broad palms, one ſide of which is plain, but on the outſide are ſeveral ſharp ſnags or ſhoots.

The European Elk grows to the height of ſeven or eight feet; and in length, from the end of the muzzle to the inſertion of the tail, meaſures ten feet: The head is two feet long; the neck, on which is a ſhort, upright mane, of a light-brown colour, is much ſhorter: Its eye is ſmall; and, from the lower corner of it, there is a deep ſlit, common to all the Deer kind, as well as moſt of the Gazelles: The ears are upwards of a foot in length, very broad, and ſomewhat ſlouching; the noſtrils are wide; and the upper lip, which is ſquare, and has a deep furrow in the middle, hangs greatly over the lower, from whence it was imagined by the ancients, that this creature could not graze without going backward: The withers are very high, the hind legs much ſhorter than the fore legs, and the hoofs deeply cloven: From a ſmall excreſcence under the throat, hangs a long tuft of coarſe black hair: The tail is very ſhort, duſky above, and white beneath: The hair is long and rough, like a Bear, and of a hoary-brown colour, not much differing from that of the Aſs.

The pace of the Elk is a high, ſhambling trot; but it goes with great ſwiftneſs.—Formerly theſe animals were made uſe of in Sweden to draw ſledges; but as they were frequently acceſſary to the eſcape of ſuch as had been guilty of murders or other great crimes, this uſe of them was prohibited under great penalties.

In paſſing through thick woods, theſe animals carry their heads horizontally, to prevent their horns being entangled in the branches.

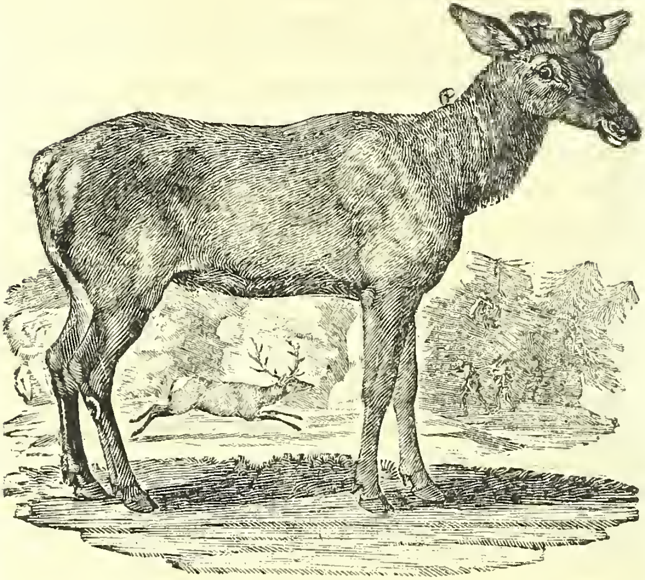
The Elks are timid, and inoffenſive; except when wounded, or during the rutting ſeaſon, when the males become very furious, and at that time will ſwim from iſle to iſle in purſuit of the females. They ſtrike with both horns and hoofs; and poſſeſs ſuch agility and ſtrength of limbs, that, with a ſingle blow of the fore feet, they will kill a wolf or a dog.

Their fleſh is extremely ſweet and nouriſhing. The Indians ſay, they can travel farther after eating heartily of the fleſh of the Elk, than any other animal food. Their tongues are excellent; but the noſe is eſteemed the greateſt delicacy in all Canada. The ſkin makes excellent buff leather; and is ſtrong, ſoft, and light: The Indians make their ſnow-ſhoes, and likewiſe form their canoes, with it. The hair on the neck, withers, and hams, of a full-grown Elk, from its great length and elaſticity, is well adapted to the purpoſe of making matraſſes and ſaddles.

The methods of hunting theſe animals in Canada are curious. The firſt, and moſt ſimple, is,—before the lakes or rivers are frozen, multitudes of the natives aſſemble in their canoes, with which they form a vaſt creſcent, each horn touching the ſhore; whilſt another party on the ſhore ſurround an extenſive tract: They are attended by dogs, which they let looſe, and preſs towards the water with loud cries. The animals, alarmed by the noiſe, fly before the hunters, and plunge into the lake, where they are killed by the people in the canoes with lances and clubs.—Another method requires a greater degree of preparation and art. The hunters incloſe a large ſpace with ſtakes and branches of trees, forming two ſides of a triangle; the bottom opens into a ſecond incloſure, which is faſt on all ſides: At the opening are hung numbers of ſnares, made of the ſlips of raw hides. They aſſemble, as before, in great troops; and, with all kinds of hideous noiſes, drive into the incloſure not only the Mooſe, but various other kinds of Deer with which that country abounds. Some, in forcing their way through the narrow paſs, are caught in the ſnares by the neck or horns; whilſt thoſe which eſcape theſe, meet their fate from the arrows of the hunters, directed at them from all quarters.—They are likewiſe frequently killed with the gun. When they are firſt diſcovered, they ſquat with their hind parts, and make water; at which inſtant the ſportſman fires: If he miſs, the Mooſe ſets off in a moſt rapid trot, making, like the Rein-deer, a prodigious rattling with its hoofs, and running twenty or thirty miles before it ſtops or takes the water. The uſual time for this diverſion is in winter. The animal can run with eaſe upon the firm ſurface of the ſnow; but the hunters avoid entering on the chaſe till the heat of the ſun is ſtrong enough to melt the frozen cruſt with which it is covered, and render it ſo ſoft as to impede the flight of the Mooſe, which ſinks up to the ſhoulders, flounders, and gets on with great difficulty: The ſportſman purſues in his broad-rackets or ſnow-ſhoes, and makes a ready prey of the diſtreſſed animal.

"As weak againſt the mountain-heaps they puſh
"Their beating breaſt in vain, and piteous bray,
"He lays them quiv'ring on th' enſanguin'd ſnows,
"And with loud ſhouts rejoicing bears them home."

The female is leſs than the male, and has no horns. They are in ſeaſon in the autumn; and bring forth in April, ſometimes one, but generally two young ones at a time, which arrive at their full growth in ſix years.



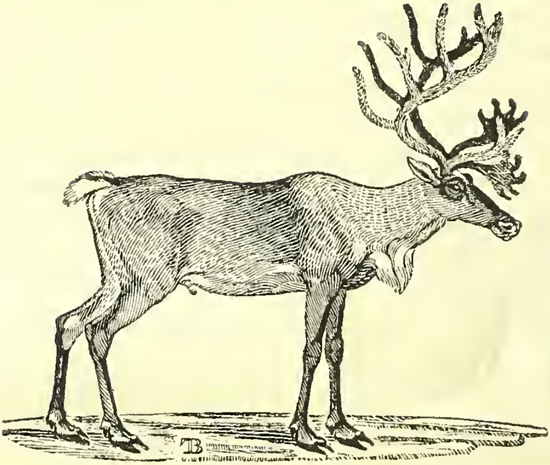
THE AMERICAN ELK,

of which we here give a faithful portrait from a living one lately brought from the interior parts of America, ſeems to be a different animal from that generally deſcribed under the name of the *Elk* or *Mooſe-deer*, to which it has very little reſemblance. It ſeems, indeed, to belong to a diſtinct ſpecies; and is probably the *Elk* or *Orignal* of Canada and the northern parts of America.

At the age of five years, the length of this creature was nine feet, from the end of the muzzle to the inſertion of the tail; the head and neck being extended in a line with the body: Its height at the ſhoulder was four feet ſix inches; length of the head, one foot ſix inches; breadth over the forehead, ſeven inches; length of the fore legs, two feet five inches; length of the neck, two feet ſix; its ears, nine inches; and tail, three. Its horns, which it had juſt ſhed, are not palmated, like thoſe of the Mooſe: They are large; and, when full grown, meaſure above ſix feet, from tip to tip. The antlers are round, and pointed at the ends: The lowermoſt antler forms a curve downward over each eye, to which it appears a defence. Its hair was long, of a dark dun colour on the back and ſides; on the head and legs, dark-brown: Its eyes full and lively; and below each there is a deep ſlit, about two inches in length, the uſe of which we are unable to diſcover.

It was very lively and active; of great ſtrength of body and limbs: Its hoofs ſhort, and like thoſe of a calf; the diviſion between them is leſs than in thoſe of the Rein-deer; and, when the animal is in motion, they do not make a rattling noiſe. It has no mane; but the hair under its neck is longer than that on any other part of the body.

We were told by the owner of this very rare and beautiful animal, that it does not attain its full growth till twenty years old, and that it ſheds its horns every third year.

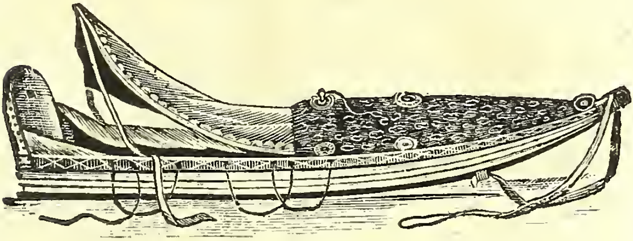


THE REIN-DEER.

This extraordinary animal is a native of the icy regions of the North; where, by a wiſe and bountiful diſpenſation, which diffuſes the common goods of Nature over every part of the habitable globe, it abounds, and is made ſubſervient to the wants of a hardy race of men inhabiting the countries near the pole, who would find it impoſſible to ſubſiſt among their ſnowy mountains without the aid of this moſt uſeful creature.

In more temperate regions, men are indebted to the unbounded liberality of Nature for a great variety of valuable creatures to ſerve, to nouriſh, and to cloath them. To the poor Laplander, the Rein-deer alone ſupplies the place of the Horſe, the Cow, the Sheep, the Goat, &c.; and from it he derives the only comforts that tend to ſoften the ſeverity of his ſituation in that moſt inhoſpitable climate.

The Rein-deer of Lapland are of two kinds,—the wild and the tame: The former are larger, ſtronger, and more hardy than the latter; for which reaſon, the tame females, in the proper ſeaſon, are often ſent out into the woods, where they meet with wild males, and return home impregnated by them. The breed from this mixture is ſtronger, and better adapted for drawing the ſledge, to which the Laplanders accuſtom them at an early age. They are yoked to it by a collar; from which a trace is brought under the belly between the legs, and faſtened to the fore part of the ſledge. Theſe carriages are extremely light, and covered at the bottom with the ſkin of the Rein-deer. The perſon who ſits in it guides the animal with a cord faſtened to its horns; he drives it with a goad, and encourages it with his voice. Thoſe of the wild breed, though by far the ſtrongeſt, often prove refractory; and not only refuſe to obey their maſter, but turn againſt him, and ſtrike ſo furiouſly with their feet, that his only reſource is to cover himſelf with his ſledge, upon which the enraged creature vents its fury: The



THE SLEDGE.

tame Deer, on the contrary, is patient, active, and willing.—When hard puſhed, the Rein-deer will trot the diſtance of ſixty miles without ſtopping; but, in ſuch exertions, the poor obedient creature fatigues itſelf ſo exceedingly, that its maſter is frequently obliged to kill it immediately, to prevent a lingering death that would enſue. In general, they can go about thirty miles without ſtopping; and that without any great or dangerous effort. —This mode of travelling can be performed only in the winter ſeaſon, when the face of the country is covered with ſnow; and, although the conveyance is ſpeedy, it is inconvenient, dangerous, and troubleſome.

As the Rein-deer conſtitutes the ſole riches of the Laplander, it may well be ſuppoſed, that a conſtant attention to preſerve and ſecure it, forms the chief employment of his life. It is no uncommon thing, for one perſon to poſſeſs above five hundred in a ſingle herd.

As ſoon as ſummer appears, which forms but a ſhort interval from the moſt piercing cold, the Laplander, who had fed his Rein-deer upon the lower grounds during the winter, drives them up to the mountains, leaving the woody country and the low paſtures, which at that ſeaſon are in a ſtate truly deplorable. Myriads of inſects, bred by the heat of the ſun in the woods and fens with which this country abounds, are all upon the wing; the whole atmoſphere ſwarms with life; every place and every creature is infeſted; the natives are obliged to cover their faces with a mixture of pitch and milk, to ſhield them from theſe minute invaders, which are drawn in with the breath, and enter the noſtrils, and even the eyes: But they are chiefly inimical to the Rein-deer: The horns of that animal being then tender, and covered with a ſkin, which renders them extremely ſenſitive, a cloud of theſe inſects ſettle upon them, and drive the poor animal almoſt to diſtraction. In this extremity, there is no reſource but flight. The herdſmen drive their flocks from the plains to the ſummits of the mountains, whither the foe cannot follow them: There they will continue the whole day, with little or no food, rather than venture down into the lower parts, where they have no defence againſt their unceaſing perſecutors.

Beſides the gnat, the gadfly is a common peſt to the Rein-deer. In the autumn, this inſect depoſits its eggs in their ſkin; where the worms burrow, and often prove fatal to them. The moment a ſingle fly is ſeen, the whole herd is in motion: They know their enemy, and endeavour to avoid it, by toſſing up their heads, and running among each other; but all this too often proves ineffectual.

Every morning and evening during the ſummer, the herdſman returns to the cottage with his Deer to be milked; where a large fire of moſs is prepared, for the purpoſe of filling the place with ſmoke, to drive off the gnats, and keep the Deer quiet whilſt milking.—The quantity of milk given by one female in a day, is about a pint. It is thinner than that of a cow, but ſweeter and more nouriſhing.

The female begins to breed at the age of two years, is in ſeaſon the latter end of September, goes with young eight months, and generally brings forth two at a time. —The fondneſs of the dam for her young is very remarkable. They follow her two or three years, but do not acquire their full ſtrength until four. It is at this age that they are trained to labour; and they continue ſerviceable four or five years. They never live above fifteen or ſixteen years.—At eight or nine years old, the Laplanders kill them for their ſkins and their fleſh. Of the former they make garments, which are warm, and cover them from head to foot: They alſo ſerve them for beds; they ſpread them on each ſide of the fire upon the leaves of trees, and in this manner lie both ſoft and warm. The latter affords a conſtant ſupply of good and wholeſome food, which, in the winter, when other kinds of proviſions fail, is their chief ſubſiſtence. The tongue of the Rein-deer is conſidered as a great delicacy; and when dried, great numbers of them are ſold into other countries. The ſinews ſerve for thread, with which the Laplanders make their cloaths, ſhoes, and other neceſſaries; and, when covered with the hair, ſerve them for ropes.

Innumerable are the uſes, the comforts, and advantages, which the poor inhabitants of this dreary climate derive from this animal. We cannot ſum them up better, than in the beautiful language of the poet:—

"Their Rein-deer form their riches: Theſe their tents,
"Their robes, their beds, and all their homely wealth,
"Supply, their wholeſome fare, and cheatful cups:
"Obſequious at their call, the docile tribe
"Yield to the ſled their necks, and whirl them ſwift
"O'er hill and dale, heap'd into one expanſe
"Of marbled ſnow, as far as eye can ſweep,
"With a blue cruſt of ice unbounded glaz'd."

The horns of the Rein-deer are large and ſlender, bending forward; with brow antlers, which are broad and palmated. A pair in our poſſeſſion are in length two feet eight inches, and from tip to tip two feet five; they weigh nine pounds: The projecting brow antler is fourteen inches long, one foot broad, and ſerrated at the end: It ſhould ſeem, both from its ſituation and form, an excellent inſtrument to remove the ſnow, under which its favourite moſs lies. Both ſexes have horns: Thoſe of the female are leſs, and have fewer branches.

We are happy in being able to give an accurate repreſentation of this ſingular creature. The drawing was taken from one in the poſſeſſion of Sir H. G. Liddell, Bart.; which he brought over from Lapland, with four others, in 1786. The height at the ſhoulder was three feet three inches: The hair on the body was of a dark-brown colour; and on the neck, brown, mixed with white: A large tuft of hair, of a dirty-white colour, hung down from the throat, near its breaſt; and it had a large white ſpot on the inſide of each hind leg, cloſe by the joint: Its head was long and fine; and round each eye was a large black ſpace: Its horns were covered with a fine down, like velvet. The hoofs of this animal are large, broad, and deeply cloven: They ſpread out to a great breadth on the ground; and, when the animal is in motion, make a crackling noiſe, by being drawn up forcibly together.

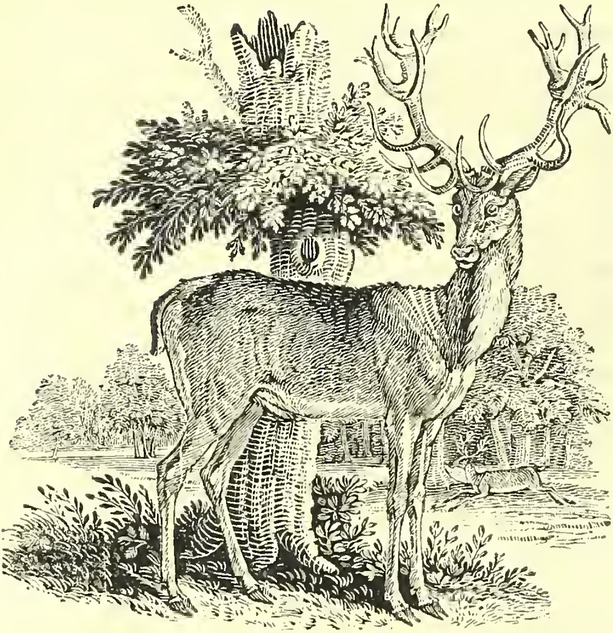
Not many attempts have been made to draw the Rein-deer from its native mountains, and tranſport it to milder climes; and of theſe, few have ſucceeded. Naturaliſts from thence have concluded, that it cannot exiſt but amidſt ice and ſnow. M. Buffon regrets the impoſſibility of procuring the animal alive; and ſays, that when tranſported to another climate it ſoon dies. M. Regnard mentions ſome that were brought to Dantzick; where, being unable to endure the heat of the climate, they all periſhed. Queen Chriſtina of Sweden procured five and twenty, which ſhe purpoſed ſending to Oliver Cromwell: They were brought as far as Stockholm; but the Laplanders who attended them refuſing to come to England, fifteen of the number were killed by the wolves, and the remaining ten did not long ſurvive, the climate being conſidered as too warm.

To thoſe brought over by Sir H. G. Liddell, five more were added the year following. They produced young ones, and gave promiſing hopes of thriving in this country: But, unfortunately, ſome of them were killed; and the others died, in conſequence of a diſorder ſimilar to that called the *rot* in Sheep, which was attributed to the richneſs of the graſs whereon they fed. Nor can we wonder at the failure of this ſpirited enterprize, when we conſider, that it is the ſole employment of the Laplander to tend and herd his Rein-deer, to drive them in the ſummer time to the ſummits of the mountains, to the ſides of clear lakes and ſtreams, and to lead them where they can find the moſt proper food. Want of knowledge or attention to minute particulars, is ſufficient to overturn the beſt-laid plans.

There is, however, little doubt but this animal will live without the Lapland *lichen;* to which, perhaps, it only hath recourſe, becauſe there is in thoſe latitudes no other ſuſtenance during the winter. It is alſo, in England, free from its mortal enemy—the gadfly. But as the deſire of poſſeſſing this animal has hitherto been excited only by curioſity, it is not likely that much attention will be paid to it in a country like this, abounding with ſuch variety of uſeful quadrupeds.

The Rein-deer is wild in America, where it is called the *Caribou.*—It is found in Spitzbergen and Greenland; and is very common in the moſt northern parts of Europe, and in Aſia as far as Kamtſchatka, where ſome of the richeſt of the natives keep herds of ten or twenty thouſand in number.

In the neighbourhood of Hudſon's Bay, there are great herds of wild Rein-deer: Columns of many thouſands annually paſs from North to South in the months of March and April. In that ſeaſon, the muſkatoes are very troubleſome, and oblige them to quit the woods, and ſeek refreſhment on the ſhore and open country.—Great numbers of beaſts of prey follow the herds. The wolves ſingle out the ſtragglers, detach them from the flock, and hunt them down: The foxes attend at a diſtance, to pick up the offals left by the former.—In autumn, the Deer, with the fawns bred during the ſummer, remigrate northward.



THE STAG, OR RED-DEER,

is the moſt beautiful animal of the Deer kind. The elegance of his form, the lightneſs of his motions, the flexibility of his limbs, his bold, branching horns, which are annually renewed, his grandeur, ſtrength, and ſwiftneſs, give him a decided pre-eminence over every other inhabitant of the foreſt.

The age of the Stag is known by its horns. The firſt year exhibits only a ſhort protuberance, which is covered with a hairy ſkin; the next year, the horns are ſtraight and ſingle; the third year produces two antlers, the fourth three, the fifth four; and, when arrived at the ſixth year, the antlers amount to ſix or ſeven on each ſide; but the number is not always certain.

The Stag begins to ſhed his horns the latter end of February, or the beginning of March. Soon after the old horn is fallen off, a ſoft tumour begins to appear, which is ſoon covered with a down like velvet: This tumour every day buds forth, like the graft of a tree; and, riſing by degrees, ſhoots out the antlers on each ſide: The ſkin continues to cover it for ſome time, and is furniſhed with blood-veſſels, which ſupply the growing horns with nouriſhment, and occaſion the furrows obſervable in them when that covering is ſtript off: The impreſſion is deeper at the bottom, where the veſſels are larger; and diminiſhes towards the point, where they are ſmooth. When the horns are at their full growth, they acquire ſtrength and ſolidity; and the velvet covering or ſkin, with its blood-veſſels, dries up, and begins to fall off; which the animal endeavours to haſten, by rubbing them againſt the trees; and, in this manner, the whole head gradually acquires its compleat hardneſs, expanſion, and beauty.

Soon after the Stags have poliſhed their horns, which is not compleated till July or Auguſt, they quit the thickets, and return to the foreſts: They cry with a loud and tremulous note; and fly from place to place, in ſearch of the females, with extreme ardour: Their necks ſwell: They ſtrike with their horns againſt trees and other obſtacles, and become extremely furious.—At this ſeaſon, when two Stags meet, their conteſts are often deſperate, and terminate in the defeat or flight of one of them; while the other remains in poſſeſſion of his miſtreſs and the field, till another rival approaches, that he is alſo obliged to attack and repel.—During this time, which uſually laſts about three weeks, the Stag is frequently ſeen by the ſides of rivers and pools of water, where he can quench his thirſt, as well as cool his ardour.—He ſwims with great eaſe and ſtrength; and, it is ſaid, will even venture out to ſea, allured by the Hinds, and ſwim from one iſland to another, though at a conſiderable diſtance.

The Hinds go with young eight months and a few days; and ſeldom produce more than one young, called a *Fawn.*—They bring forth in May, or the beginning of June; and conceal their young with great care in the moſt obſcure retreats. They will even expoſe themſelves to the fury of the hounds, and ſuffer all the terrors of the chaſe, in order to draw off the dogs from their hiding place. The Hind is alſo very bold in the protection of her offspring, and defends it with great courage againſt her numerous and rapacious enemies: The Wild Cat, the Dog, and even the Wolf, are frequently obliged to give way to her upon theſe occaſions. But what appears to be ſtrangely unnatural, the Stag himſelf is frequently one of her moſt dangerous foes; and would deſtroy the fawn, if not prevented by the maternal care of the Hind, which carefully conceals the place of its retreat.

The calf never quits the dam during the whole ſummer; and in winter, the Stags and Hinds of all ages keep together in herds, which are more or leſs numerous, according to the mildneſs or rigour of the ſeaſon. They ſeparate in the ſpring: The Hinds retire, to bring forth; while none but the young ones remain together.

Stags are gregarious, and fond of grazing in company: It is danger or neceſſity alone that ſeparates them.

The uſual colour of the Stag, in England, is red; in other countries, it is generally brown or yellow. His eye is peculiarly beautiful, ſoft, and ſparkling: His hearing is quick; and his ſenſe of ſmelling acute. When liſtening, he raiſes his head, erects his ears, and ſeems attentive to every noiſe, which he can hear at a great diſtance. When he approaches a thicket, he ſtops to look round him on all ſides, and attentively ſurveys every object near him: If the cunning animal perceive nothing to alarm him, he moves ſlowly forward; but, on the leaſt appearance of danger, he flies off with the rapidity of the wind. He appears to liſten with great tranquillity and delight to the ſound of the ſhepherd's pipe, which is ſometimes made uſe of to allure the poor animal to its deſtruction.

The Stag eats ſlowly, and is nice in the choice of his paſture. When his ſtomach is full, he lies down to chew the cud at leiſure. This, however, ſeems to be attended with greater exertions than in the Ox or the Sheep; for the graſs is not returned from the firſt ſtomach without violent ſtraining, owing to the great length of his neck, and the narrowneſs of the paſſage. This effort is made by a kind of hiccup, which continues during the time of his ruminating.

The voice of the Stag is ſtronger and more quivering as he advances in age: In the rutting ſeaſon, it is even terrible. That of the Hind is not ſo loud; and is ſeldom heard, but when excited by apprehenſion for herſelf or her young.

The Stag has been ſaid to be an uncommonly long-lived animal; but later obſervations have fully confuted this unfounded opinion. It is a generally received maxim, that animals live ſeven times the number of years that bring them to perfection: Thus the Stag, being five or ſix years in arriving at maturity, lives ſeven times that number, or from thirty-five to forty years.

The following fact, recorded in hiſtory, will ſerve to ſhew, that the Stag is poſſeſſed of an extraordinary ſhare of courage, when his perſonal ſafety is concerned:—Some years ago, William, Duke of Cumberland, cauſed a Tiger and a Stag to be incloſed in the ſame area; and the Stag made ſo bold a defence, that the Tiger was at length obliged to give up.

The hunting of the Stag has been held, in all ages, a diverſion of the nobleſt kind; and former times bear witneſs of the great exploits performed on theſe occaſions. In our iſland, large tracts of land were ſet apart for this purpoſe; villages and ſacred edifices were wantonly thrown down, and converted into one wide waſte, that the tyrant of the day might have room to purſue his favourite diverſion. In the time of William Rufus and Henry the Firſt, it was leſs criminal to deſtroy one of the human ſpecies than a beaſt of chaſe. Happily for us, theſe wide-extended ſcenes of deſolation and oppreſſion have been gradually contracted; uſeful arts, agriculture, and commerce, have extenſively ſpread themſelves over the naked land; and theſe ſuperior beaſts of the chaſe have given way to other animals more uſeful to the community.

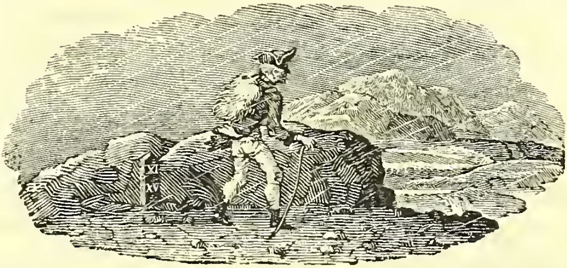
In the preſent cultivated ſtate of this country, therefore, the Stag is almoſt unknown in its wild ſtate. The few that remain are kept in parks among the Fallow-deer, and diſtinguiſhed by the name of *Red Deer.*—Its viciouſneſs during the rutting ſeaſon, and the badneſs of its fleſh, which is poor and ill-flavoured, have occaſioned almoſt the extinction of the ſpecies.—Some few are yet to be found in the foreſts that border on Cornwall and

Devonſhire, on moſt of the large mountains of Ireland, and in the Highlands of Scotland, where Dr Johnſon deſcribes them as not exceeding the Fallow-deer in ſize, and their fleſh of equal flavour.

The Red Deer of this kingdom are nearly of the ſame ſize and colour, without much variety: In other parts of the world, they differ in form and ſize, as well as in their horns and the colour of their bodies.

The Corsican STAG

is very ſmall, not exceeding half the height of ours; his body is ſhort and thick, his hair of a dark-brown colour, and his legs ſhort.



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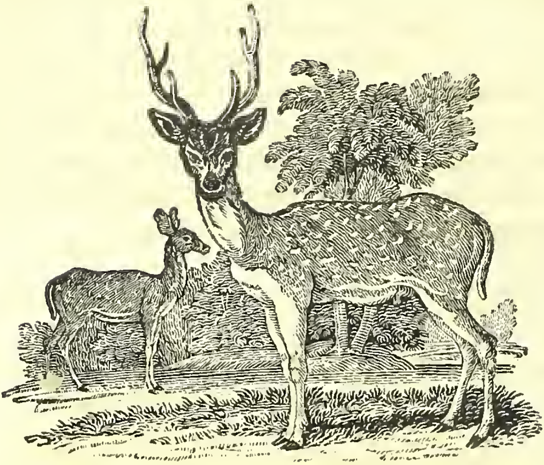
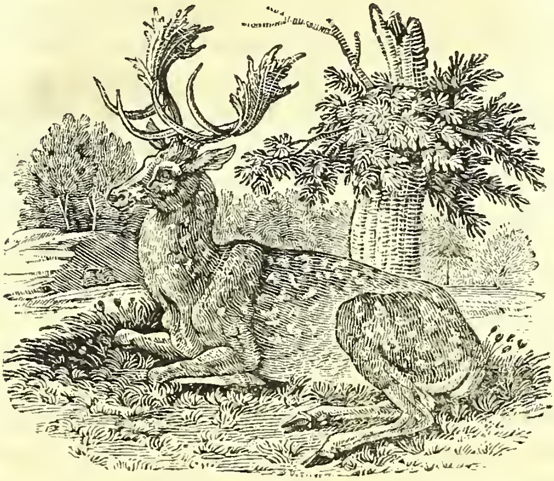


THE AXIS, OR GANGES STAG,

is an inhabitant of thoſe immenſe plains of India, watered by the river Ganges.—M. Buffon conſiders it as a variety or ſhade between the Stag and the Fallow-deer. It is of the ſize of the latter; but its horns are round, like thoſe of the Stag; and it has no brow antlers. Its whole body is marked with white ſpots, elegantly diſpoſed, and diſtinct from each other; the belly, inſide of the thighs, and legs, are white; along the back there are two rows of ſpots, parallel to each other; thoſe on the other parts of the body are irregular; the head and neck are grey; and the tail, which is red above, and white beneath, is as long as that of the Fallow-deer.

The continent of America abounds with *Stags*, and other animals of the Deer kind, in great variety. In ſome parts of that vaſt country, the inhabitants have domeſticated them, and live chiefly upon the milk and cheeſe with which they ſupply them.

Thus we find, that the ſame animal, which in ſome parts contributes only to the amuſement of man, may in others be brought to ſupply his neceſſities. The ſtores of Nature are various and abundant: It is neceſſity alone that draws them out to ſupply our wants, and contribute to our comforts.



THE FALLOW-DEER.

The principal difference between the Stag and the Fallow-deer, ſeems to be in their ſize, and in the form of their horns,—the latter being much ſmaller than the former; and its horns, inſtead of being round, like thoſe of the Stag, are broad, palmated at the ends, and better garniſhed with antlers: The tail is alſo much longer than that of the Stag, and its hair is brighter; in other reſpects they nearly reſemble each other.

The horns of the Fallow-deer are ſhed annually, like thoſe of the Stag; but they fall off later, and are renewed nearly at the ſame time.—Their rutting ſeaſon arrives fifteen days or three weeks after that of the Stag. The males then bellow frequently, but with a low and interrupted voice. They are not ſo furious at this ſeaſon as the Stag, nor exhauſt themſelves by any uncommon ardour. They never leave their paſture in queſt of the females; but generally fight with each other, till one buck becomes maſter of the field.

They aſſociate in herds, which ſometimes divide into two parties, and maintain obſtinate battles for the poſſeſſion of ſome favourite part of the park: Each party has its leader, which is always the oldeſt and ſtrongeſt of the flock. They attack in regular order of battle; they fight with courage, and mutually ſupport each other; they retire, they rally, and ſeldom give up after one defeat: The combat is frequently renewed for ſeveral days together; till, after ſeveral defeats, the weaker party is obliged to give way, and leave the conquerors in poſſeſſion of the object of their contention.

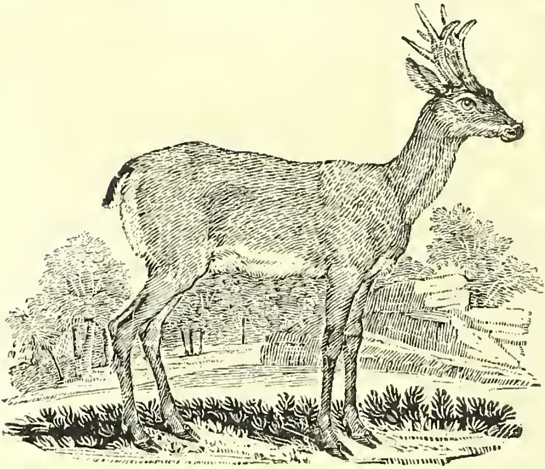
The Fallow-deer is eaſily tamed, feeds upon a variety of things which the Stag refuſes, and preſerves its condition nearly the ſame through the whole year, although its fleſh is eſteemed much finer at particular ſeaſons.

They are capable of procreation in their ſecond year; and, like the Stag, are fond of variety.—The female goes with young eight months; and produces one, ſometimes two, and rarely three, at a time.—They arrive at perfection at the age of three years, and live till about twenty.

We have, in England, two varieties of the Fallow-deer, which are ſaid to be of foreign origin: The beautiful ſpotted kind, ſuppoſed to have been brought from Bengal; and the deep-brown ſort, now common in this country. Theſe laſt were introduced by King James the Firſt, out of Norway; where having obſerved their hardineſs in bearing the cold of that ſevere climate, he brought ſome of them into Scotland, and from thence tranſported them into his chaſes of Enfield and Epping. Since that time they have multiplied exceedingly in many parts of this kingdom, which is now become famous for veniſon of ſuperior fatneſs and flavour to that of any other country in the world.

The Fallow-deer, with ſome variation, is found in almoſt every country of Europe. Thoſe of Spain are as large as Stags, but darker; their necks are alſo more ſlender; and their tails, which are longer than thoſe of ours, are black above, and white beneath.

In Guiana, (a country of South-America) according to Labat, there are *Deer* without horns, ſmaller than thoſe of Europe, but reſembling them in every other particular. They are very lively, light, and exceſſively timid; of a reddiſh colour; with ſharp, piercing eyes, and ſhort tails. When purſued, they fly into places of difficult acceſs. The natives frequently ſtand and watch for them in narrow paths; and, as ſoon as the game appears within reach, ſhoot them unperceived. Their fleſh is conſidered as a great delicacy.



THE ROE-BUCK

was formerly common in many parts of England and Wales; but at preſent is only to be found in the Highlands of Scotland.

The Roe is the ſmalleſt of all the Deer kind, being only three feet four inches long, and ſomewhat more than two feet in height: The horns are from eight to nine inches long, upright, round, and divided into three branches; the body is covered with long hair; the lower part of each hair is aſh colour, near the end is a narrow bar of black, and the point is yellow; the hairs on the face are black, tipped with aſh colour; the ears are long, their inſides of a pale-yellow, and covered with long hair; the cheſt, belly, legs, and the inſide of the thighs, are of a yellowiſh-white; the rump is of a pure white, and the tail very ſhort.

The form of the Roe-buck is elegant, and its motions light and eaſy. It bounds ſeemingly without effort, and runs with great ſwiftneſs.—When hunted, it endeavours to elude its purſuers by the moſt ſubtle artifices: It repeatedly returns upon its former ſteps, till, by various windings, it has entirely confounded the ſcent. The cunning animal then, by a ſudden ſpring, bounds to one ſide; and, lying cloſe down upon its belly, permits the hounds to paſs by, without offering to ſtir.

They do not keep together in herds, like other Deer, but live in ſeparate families. The ſire, the dam, and the young ones, aſſociate together, and ſeldom mix with others.

Their rutting ſeaſon continues but fifteen days,—from the latter end of October till about the middle of November. During this period, they will not ſuffer the fawns to remain with them: The buck obliges them to retire, in order that the dam and her ſucceeding progeny may remain undiſturbed.

The female goes with young five months and a half; and brings forth about the end of April, or beginning of May. On theſe occaſions, ſhe ſeparates from the male, and conceals herſelf in the thickeſt and moſt retired part of the woods. She generally produces two fawns at a time, ſometimes three. In ten or twelve days, theſe are able to follow their dam. When threatened with danger, ſhe hides them in a thicket; and, to preſerve them, offers herſelf to be chaſed: But, notwithſtanding her care, ſhe is frequently robbed of her young. Numbers of fawns are found out and taken alive by the peaſants; and many more are worried by dogs, foxes, and other carnivorous animals. By theſe continual depredations, this beautiful creature is daily becoming more ſcarce;

and, in many countries, where once it was common, the race is now wholly extinct.

When about eight or nine months old, their horns begin to appear in the form of two knobs: The firſt year they are without antlers. They ſhed their horns the latter end of autumn, and renew them in the winter; in which they differ from the Stag, whoſe horns fall off in the ſpring, and are renewed in ſummer.

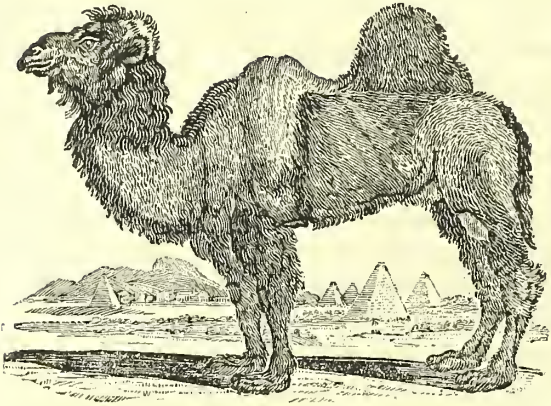
The life of the Roe-buck ſeldom exceeds twelve or fifteen years.

They are very delicate in the choice of their food; and require a large tract of country, ſuited to the wildneſs of their nature, which can never be thoroughly ſubdued. No arts can teach them to be familiar with their keeper, nor in any degree attached to him. They are eaſily terrified; and, in their attempts to eſcape, will run with ſuch force againſt the walls of their incloſure, as ſometimes to diſable themſelves: They are alſo ſubject to capricious fits of fierceneſs; and, on theſe occaſions, will ſtrike furiouſly with their horns and feet at the object of their diſlike.

Some years ago, one of theſe animals, after being hunted out of Scotland, through Cumberland and various parts of the North of England, at laſt took refuge in the woody receſſes bordering upon the banks of the Tyne, between Prudhoe Caſtle and Wylam. It was repeatedly ſeen and hunted; but no dogs were equal to its ſpeed: It frequently croſſed the river; and, either by ſwiftneſs or artifice, eluded all its purſuers. It happened, during the rigour of a ſevere winter, that being purſued, it croſſed the river upon the ice with ſome difficulty; and being much ſtrained by its violent exertions, was taken alive. It was kept for ſome weeks in the houſe, and was then again turned out; but all its cunning and activity were gone; it ſeemed to have forgotten the places of its former retreat; and, after running ſome time, it laid down in the midſt of a brook, where it was killed by the dogs.

The fleſh of the Roe-buck is fine and well-taſted: That of the male, after the age of two years, is hard; the fleſh of the females, though farther advanced in years, is more tender: When very young, it is looſe and ſoft; but, at the age of eighteen months, is in its higheſt ſtate of perfection.

In America, the Roe-buck is much more common than in Europe.—In Louiſiana, it is very large.—The inhabitants live chiefly upon its fleſh, which is good and well-flavoured.



THE CAMEL

POSSESSES the various qualities of the Horſe, the Cow, and the Sheep; and is to the Arabian, in a great meaſure, what thoſe uſeful creatures are to us. Its milk is rich and nouriſhing; and, being mixed with water, makes a wholeſome and refreſhing beverage, much uſed by the Arabs in their journies: The fleſh of young Camels is alſo an excellent and wholeſome food. Their hair or fleece, which falls off entirely in the ſpring, is ſuperior to that of any other domeſtic animal, and is made into very fine ſtuffs, for cloaths, coverings, tents, and other furniture.

Poſſeſſed of his Camel, the Arabian has nothing either to want or to fear: In one day, he can perform a journey of fifty leagues into the deſert, where he is ſafe from every enemy: For, without the aid of this uſeful animal, no perſon could purſue him amidſt ſandy deſerts, where nothing preſents itſelf to the eye but one uniform void, naked and ſolitary.

The Arabian regards the Camel as the moſt precious gift of Heaven; by the aſſiſtance of which he is enabled to ſubſiſt in thoſe frightful intervals of Nature, which ſerve him for an aſylum, and ſecure his independence.

But it is not to the plundering Arab alone, that the ſervices of this uſeful quadruped are confined: In Turkey, Perſia, Barbary, and Egypt, every article of merchandiſe is carried by Camels. Merchants and travellers unite together, and form themſelves into numerous bodies, called *caravans*, to prevent the inſults of the Arabs. One of theſe caravans frequently conſiſts of many thouſands; the Camels being always more numerous than the men. Each Camel is loaded in proportion to his ſtrength. At the command of their conductor, they lie down on their belly, with their legs folded under them, and in this poſture receive their burden: As ſoon as they are loaded, they riſe of their own accord, and will not ſuffer any greater weight to be impoſed upon them than they can bear with eaſe; when overloaded, they ſet up the moſt piteous cries, till part of the burden be taken off. The common load of a Camel is from three to four hundred weight; and the medium of the expence of the conveyance for each hundred appears to be about one farthing per mile. The uſual rate of travelling is three miles in the hour; and the number of hours that are actually employed on the route, excluſive of thoſe allotted to refreſhment, is ſeldom more than ſeven or eight in a day. Of the number of days which are conſumed in a long journey, many are devoted to the purpoſes of occaſional trade, recruiting the ſtrength of the Camels, and procuring additional ſtores of proviſions and water.—A particular mode of eaſy conveyance is provided for women and children, and for perſons oppreſſed with infirmity or illneſs: Six or eight Camels are yoked together in a row; and a number of tent poles are placed in parallel lines upon their backs: Theſe are covered with carpets; and bags of corn are ſuperadded to bring the floor to a level, as well as to ſoften the harſhneſs of the Camels' movements: Other carpets are then ſpread; and the travellers ſit or lie down with the moſt perfect eaſe.—The general food of the Camels is ſuch only as their nightly paſture affords; and is frequently confined to the hard and thorny ſhrubs of the deſert, where a ſullen kind of vegetation is created by the rains of the winter, and ſuſtained by the dew that deſcends in copious abundance through all the remainder of the year.

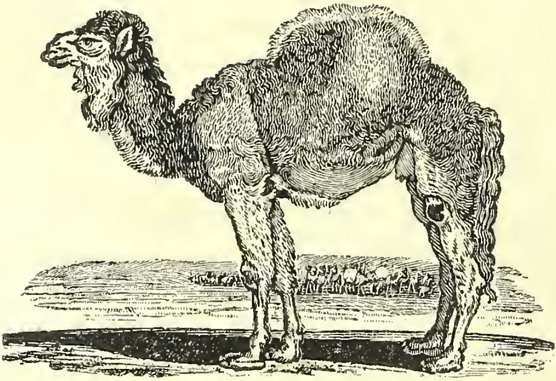
But the peculiar and diſtinguiſhing characteriſtic of the Camel is, its faculty of abſtaining from water for a greater length of time than any other animal; for which Nature has made a wonderful proviſion, in giving it, beſides the four ſtomachs which it has in common with other ruminating animals, a fifth bag, ſerving as a reſervoir for water, where it remains without corrupting or mixing with the other aliments. When the Camel is preſſed with thirſt, and has occaſion for water to macerate its food while ruminating, it makes part of it paſs into its ſtomach, by a ſimple contraction of certain muſcles. By this ſingular ſtructure, it can take a prodigious quantity of water at one draught, and is enabled to paſs ſeveral days without drinking; Leo Africanus ſays fifteen.—Camels can diſcover water by their ſmell at half a league's diſtance; and, after a long abſtinence, will haſten towards it, long before their drivers perceive where it lies.

The feet of the Camel are peculiarly adapted to the ſoil on which he treads. On moiſt or ſlippery ground, he cannot well ſupport himſelf; and his broad and tender feet are liable to be injured by the reſiſtance of ſtones: But he is obſerved to tread with perfect eaſe and ſecurity on the dry and yielding ſand; and whilſt, from its peculiar ſtructure, his hoof is incapable of faſtening with any degree of ſecurity on the ground of a ſteep aſcent or ſhelving declivity, his movements on a ſmooth and level ſurface are ſingularly firm and ſafe.

Many attempts have been made to introduce this ſerviceable animal into other countries; but, as yet, none have ſucceeded. The race ſeems to be confined to certain diſtricts, where its utility has been known for ages.

Though a native of warm climates, the Camel dreads thoſe which are exceſſively hot: It can neither ſubſiſt in the burning heat of the torrid zone, nor in the milder air of the temperate. It ſeems to be an original native of Arabia; for, in that country, it is not only more numerous, but thrives better than in any other part of the world.

There are two varieties of this animal, which have been diſtinguiſhed previous to all hiſtorical record: That which is called the *Bactrian Camel*, has two hunches on its back, and is found chiefly in Turkey and the countries of the Levant; whilſt the *Arabian Camel* has only one hunch.



THE ARABIAN CAMEL, OR DROMEDARY,

is common in Arabia and all the northern parts of Africa, from the Mediterranean Sea to the river Niger; and is infinitely more numerous, and more generally diffuſed, than the Camel: It is alſo much ſwifter, and is therefore generally employed on buſineſs which requires diſpatch.

In Arabia, they are trained for running matches; and, in many places, for carrying couriers, who can go above a hundred miles a day on them, and that for nine or ten days together, over burning and uninhabitable deſerts. They require neither whip nor ſpur to quicken their pace; but go freely, if gently treated; and are much enlivened by ſinging or the ſound of the pipe, which gives them ſpirits to purſue their journey.

They are mild and gentle at all times, except when they are in heat: At that period, they are ſeized with a ſort of madneſs; they eat little, and will ſometimes attempt to bite their maſters; ſo that it is not ſafe to approach them.

The Camel arrives at its full ſtrength at the age of ſix years, and lives forty or fifty.

The females are not uſually put to labour, but are allowed to paſture and breed at full liberty. Their time of geſtation is nearly twelve months; and they generally bring forth one at a birth.

THE LAMA

is the Camel of Peru and Chili; and, before the conqueſt of thoſe countries by the Spaniards, was the only beaſt of burden known to the Indians.—Its diſpoſition is mild, gentle, and tractable.

Before the introduction of Mules, theſe animals were uſed by the natives to plough the land, and now ſerve to carry burdens. They march ſlowly, and ſeldom accompliſh journies of more than four or five leagues a day; but what they want in ſpeed is made up by perſeverance and induſtry. They travel long journies in countries impaſſable to moſt other animals; are very ſure-footed; and are much employed in tranſporting the rich ores, dug out of the mines of Potoſi, over the rugged hills and narrow paths of the Andes: Bolivar remarks, that, in his time, three hundred thouſand of them were conſtantly employed in this work. They lie down to be loaded, and when weary no blows can excite them to quicken their pace.—They neither defend themſelves with their feet nor their teeth. When angry, they have no other method of revenging injuries, but by ſpitting. They can throw out their ſaliva to the diſtance of ten paces; and if it fall on the ſkin it raiſes an itching, accompanied with a ſlight inflammation.—Their fleſh is eaten, and ſaid to be as good as mutton.

Like the Camel, they have the faculty of abſtaining long from water (ſometimes four or five days); and like that animal's, their food is coarſe and trifling. They are neither allowed corn nor hay; green herbage, of which they eat very moderately, being ſufficient for their nouriſhment.

The wild Lamas, called *Guanacos*, are ſtronger and more active than the domeſtic kind. They live in herds, and inhabit the higheſt regions of the Cordelieres. They run with great ſwiftneſs in places of difficult acceſs, where dogs cannot eaſily follow them. The moſt uſual way of killing them is with the gun. They are hunted for the ſake of their fleſh and their hair: Of the latter the Indians make cloth.

The Lama reſembles the Camel in the form of its body, but is without the dorſal hunch: Its head is ſmall and well ſhaped; its neck long, and very protuberant near its junction with the body: In its domeſtic ſtate, its hair is ſhort and ſmooth; when wild, it is coarſe and long, of a yellowiſh colour: A black line runs along the top of the back, from the head to the tail. The tame ones vary in colour: Some of them are white, others black, others of a mixed colour—white, grey, and ruſſet, diſperſed in ſpots. Its tail is ſhort: Its ears are four inches long: Its feet are cloven, like thoſe of the Ox; and are armed behind with a ſpur, by which the animal is enabled to ſupport itſelf on rugged and difficult ground. The height of the Lama is about four feet; and its length, from the neck to the tail, ſix feet.

* * *

THE PACOS

very much reſembles the Lama in figure, but is much ſmaller. Its body is covered with very fine long wool, of the colour of dried roſes, or a dull purple; the belly is white.—They live in vaſt herds, and inhabit the moſt elevated parts of the higheſt mountains, where they endure the utmoſt rigour of froſt and ſnow. They are exceedingly ſwift; and ſo timid, that it is very difficult to come near them.

The manner of taking them is ſingular. The Indians tie cords, with ſmall pieces of wool or cloth hanging from them, acroſs the narrow paſſes of the mountains, about three or four feet from the ground: They then drive a herd of theſe animals towards them; and they are ſo terrified by the flutter of the rags, that they dare not paſs, but huddle together, and ſuffer themſelves to be killed in great numbers.

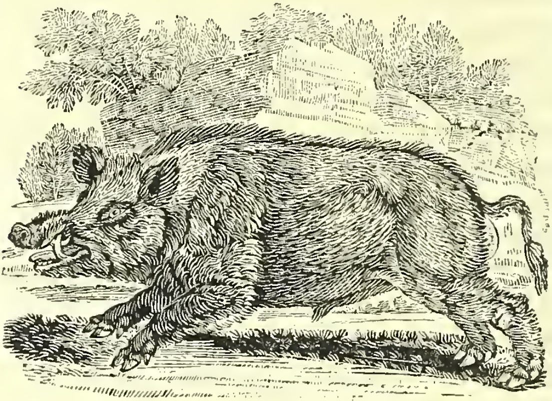
Their wool is a valuable article of commerce; and is made into gloves, ſtockings, bed-cloaths, carpets, &c.

The Pacos are domeſticated; and, like the Lamas, are employed in carrying burdens; but cannot bear more than from fifty to ſeventy-five pounds; and are ſtill more ſubject to capricious fits of obſtinacy. When once they lie down with their load, no blows can provoke them to riſe.

The great advantages derived from the wool of theſe creatures, induced the Spaniards to attempt their introduction into Europe. Some of them were brought over to Spain; but, by not ſufficiently attending to the neceſſity of placing them in ſituations ſimilar to thoſe which they had always been accuſtomed to, the experiment proved unſucceſsful.

The HOG Kind.

ANIMALS of the Hog kind ſeem to poſſeſs a middle nature, between thoſe that live upon graſs and ſuch as are carnivorous; and unite in themſelves moſt of thoſe diſtinctions which are peculiar to each claſs. Like the one, they will feed on animal ſubſtances, and do not ruminate; like the other, they are cloven-hoofed, live chiefly on vegetables, and ſeldom ſeek after animal food, except when urged by neceſſity.

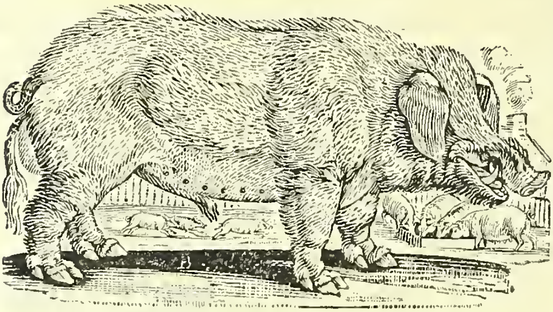


The WILD-BOAR,

which is the original of all the varieties to be found in this creature, is much ſmaller than thoſe of the domeſtic kind; and does not, like them, vary in colour, but is uniformly of a brinded or dark-grey, inclining to black. —His ſnout is longer than that of the tame Hog; and his ears are ſhort, round, and black. He is armed with formidable tuſks in each jaw, which ſerve him for the double purpoſe of annoying his enemy, or procuring his food, which is chiefly roots and vegetables: Some of theſe tuſks are almoſt a foot long: Thoſe in the upper jaw bend upwards in a circular form, and are exceedingly ſharp at the points; thoſe of the under jaw are always moſt to be dreaded; for with them the animal defends himſelf, and frequently gives mortal wounds.

Wild-Boars are not gregarious; but while young, live together in families, and frequently unite their forces againſt the wolves, or other beaſts of prey. When likely to be attacked, they call to each other with a very loud and fierce note: The ſtrongeſt face the danger, and form themſelves into a ring, the weakeſt falling into the center. In this poſition, few beaſts dare venture to engage them; but leave them to purſue a leſs dangerous chaſe. —When the Wild-Boar is arrived at a ſtate of maturity, he walks the foreſt alone and fearleſs. At that time he dreads no ſingle foe; nor will he turn out of his way even for man himſelf. He offends no animal; at the ſame time he is furniſhed with arms which render him a terror to the fierceſt.

The hunting of the Wild-Boar is a dangerous but common amuſement of the great in thoſe countries where it is to be found. The Dogs chiefly uſed for this ſport are of a ſlow and heavy kind.—When the Boar is rouſed, he goes ſlowly forward, not much afraid, nor very far before his purſuers. He frequently turns round, ſtops till the hounds come up, and offers to attack them: After keeping each other at bay for a while, the Boar again goes ſlowly forward, and the Dogs renew the purſuit. In this manner the chaſe is continued till the Boar becomes quite tired, and refuſes to go any farther: The Dogs then attempt to cloſe in upon him from behind; and in this attack the young ones, being generally the moſt forward, frequently loſe their lives: The old ſeaſoned Dogs keep the animal at bay until the hunters come up, who kill him with their ſpears.



THE COMMON BOAR

is, of all other domeſtic quadrupeds, the moſt filthy and impure. Its form is clumſy and diſguſting, and its appetite gluttonous and exceſſive.—In no inſtance has Nature more conſpicuouſly ſhewn her œconomy than in this race of animals, whoſe ſtomachs are fitted to receive nutriment from a variety of things that would be otherwiſe waſted: The refuſe of the field, the garden, the barn, or the kitchen, affords them a luxurious repaſt.

Uſeleſs during life, and only valuable when deprived of it, this animal has ſometimes been compared to a miſer, whoſe hoarded treaſures are of little value till death has deprived them of their rapacious owner.

The parts of this animal are finely adapted to its mode of living. Nature has given it a form more prone than that of other animals. Its neck is ſtrong and brawny; its ſnout is long and callous, well calculated for the purpoſe of turning up the earth for roots of various kinds, of which it is extremely fond; and it has a quick ſenſe of ſmelling, by which it is enabled to trace out its food. It is naturally ſtupid, inactive, and drowſy; much inclined to increaſe in fat, which is diſpoſed in a different manner from that of other animals, and forms a thick and regular coat between the fleſh and the ſkin. It is reſtleſs at a change of weather; and during certain high winds is ſo agitated, as to run violently, ſcreaming horribly at the ſame time. It appears to foreſee the approach of bad weather, as it previouſly carries ſtraw in its mouth to its ſty, prepares a bed, and ſeems endeavouring to hide itſelf from the impending ſtorm.

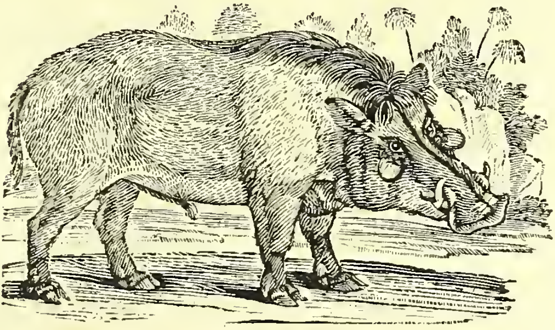
Linnæus obſerves, that the fleſh of the Hog is a wholeſome food for thoſe that uſe much exerciſe, but bad for ſuch as lead a ſedentary life. It is of univerſal uſe, and makes in various ways a conſtant article in the elegancies of the table. It is of great importance to this country, as a commercial nation; for it takes ſalt better than any other kind, and conſequently is capable of being preſerved longer: It is therefore of great uſe in ſhips, and makes a principal part of the proviſions of the Britiſh navy.

The domeſtic Sow brings forth twice a year, and produces from ten to twenty at a litter: She goes four months with young, and brings forth in the fifth. At that time ſhe muſt be carefully watched, to prevent her from devouring her young: Still greater attention is neceſſary to keep off the male, as he would deſtroy the whole litter.

The moſt numerous breed of Hogs in this iſland is that generally known by the name of the *Berkſhire Pigs*, now ſpread through almoſt every part of England, and ſome parts of Scotland. They are in general of a reddiſh-brown colour, with black ſpots upon them; have large ears hanging over their eyes; are ſhort-legged, ſmall-boned, and are readily made fat. Some of theſe have been fed to an almoſt incredible ſize. Mr Culley, in his Treatiſe on Live Stock, gives an account of one that was killed at Congleton in Cheſhire, which meaſured, from the noſe to the end of the tail, three yards eight inches; in height, it was four feet and a half; and weighed, after it was killed, eighty-ſix ſtones eleven pounds, avoirdupoiſe.

The Chineſe or black breed are now very common in England. They are ſmaller, have ſhorter legs, and their fleſh is whiter and ſweeter than the common kind.—Of this ſort were thoſe found in New Guinea, which proved ſo ſeaſonable a relief to our circumnavigators, when that country was firſt viſited by them.—There are likewiſe great numbers of them in the Friendly and Society Iſles, the Marqueſas, and many other of the newly-diſcovered iſlands in the South ſeas. Theſe are fed with plantains, bread-fruit, and yams; and are exceedingly fat. They are frequently ſeen by the natives in their canoes, ſwimming from one iſland to another, and killed by them with lances and arrows.

The Hog ſpecies, though very numerous, and diffuſed over Europe, Aſia, and Africa, did not exiſt in America, till tranſported thither by the Spaniards. In many places they have multiplied exceedingly, and become wild. They reſemble the domeſtic Hog; but their bodies are ſhorter, and their ſnout and ſkin thicker.



THE AFRICAN WILD-BOAR, OR WOOD-SWINE,

lives in a wild, uncultivated ſtate, in the hotteſt parts of Africa.—It is a very vicious animal, and quick in all its motions. It is as dangerous to attack one of them, as a Lion: For, though much ſmaller, it ruſhes upon a man as ſwift as an arrow; and throwing him down before he has time to ſtrike with his javelin, breaks his legs, and almoſt at the ſame inſtant rips up his belly.

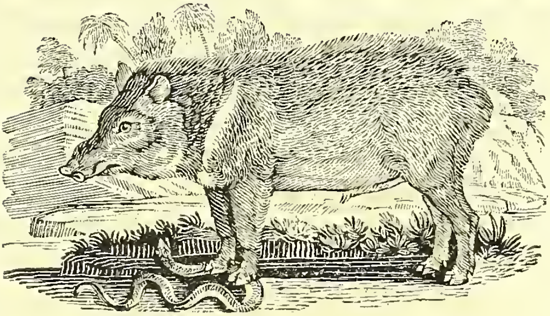
It has four tuſks: Two very large ones proceed from the upper jaw, and turn upwards like a horn—they are nine inches long, and full five inches round at the baſe; the two other tuſks, which come from the lower jaw, project but three inches from the mouth. Theſe tuſks the animal makes uſe of as the dreadful inſtruments of his vengeance.—He will attack a man on horſeback, if he ſhould venture to come too near him; and firſt breaking the Horſe's legs, kills both him and his rider.

Sparrman deſcribes it as being of a bright-yellow colour, like the domeſtic kind. Its noſe is broad, flat, and of a horny hardneſs; its head is very large, in proportion to the ſize of its body; underneath each eye it has a great lobe or wattle, lying almoſt horizontally, broad, flat, rounded at the end, and placed ſo as to intercept the view of any thing immediately beneath it; the ears are large and ſharp-pointed, lined on the inſide with long whitiſh hairs; its tail is ſlender and flat; when the animal is purſued, it always holds it quite erect.

They live in holes under ground, the avenues to which are exceedingly narrow. The natives ſeldom dare attack them in their retreats, as there is always danger of their ruſhing out unawares. When purſued with their young ones, it is no uncommon thing to ſee them take them up in their mouths, and run with them in that manner at a great rate.

From the ſhortneſs of their necks, they frequently fall on their knees to feed; and change this poſture to that of ſtanding with the greateſt eaſe.

The fleſh of this animal is good, and very much reſembles that of the common Hog.



THE PECCARY, OR MEXICAN HOG,

inhabits the hotteſt parts of South-America, where the ſpecies is very numerous: Herds, conſiſting of two or three hundred, are ſometimes to be ſeen together.—It is very fierce; and will fight ſtoutly with beaſts of prey, when attacked by them. The Jaguar, or American Leopard, is its mortal enemy; and frequently loſes its life in engaging a number of theſe animals. They aſſiſt each other, ſurround their enemies, and often come off victorious.

They live chiefly in mountainous places; and are not fond of wallowing in the mire, like the common Hog. They feed on fruits, roots, and ſeeds: They likewiſe eat ſerpents, toads, and lizards; and are very dexterous in firſt taking off the ſkins with their fore feet and teeth.

The Peccary in appearance reſembles the Hog, though ſomewhat ſmaller: Its body is covered with ſtrong briſtles, which, when the creature is irritated, riſe up like the prickles of a hedgehog, and are nearly as ſtrong—they are of a duſky colour, with alternate rings of white;

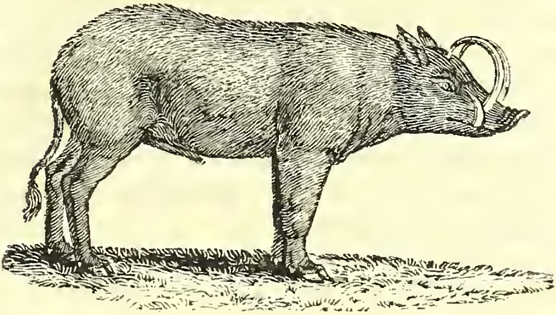
acroſs the ſhoulders to the breaſt, there is a band of white; its head is ſhort and thick; it has two tuſks in each jaw; its ears are ſmall and erect; and inſtead of a tail, it has a ſmall fleſhy protuberance, which does not cover its poſteriors. It differs moſt eſſentially from the Hog, in having a ſmall orifice on the lower part of the back, from whence a thin watery humour, of a moſt diſagreeable ſmell, flows very copiouſly. In the Philoſophical Tranſactions, Dr Tyſon has deſcribed this orifice very minutely, as well as ſome other peculiarities in the conformation of its ſtomach and inteſtines.

Like the Hog, the Peccary is very prolific. The young ones, if taken at firſt, are eaſily tamed, and ſoon loſe all their natural ferocity; but can never be brought to diſcover any ſigns of attachment to thoſe that feed them. They do no miſchief, and may be allowed to run about at pleaſure. They ſeldom ſtray far from home, and return of their own accord.——When angry, they grunt like the Hog, but much ſtronger and harſher; and when ſuddenly alarmed, make a ſharp noiſe with their breath, and erect their briſtles.

The fleſh of the Peccary, though drier and leaner than that of our Hog, is by no means diſagreeable, and may be greatly improved by caſtration. When killed, the dorſal gland muſt be immediately cut off. If this operation be deferred for the ſpace of half an hour, the fleſh becomes utterly unfit to be eaten.

Although the European Hog is common in America, and in many parts has become wild, the Peccary has never been known to breed with it. They frequently go together, and feed in the ſame woods; but hitherto no intermediate breed has been known to ariſe from their intercourſe.

M. de la Borde deſcribes two kinds of this animal,—one ſmaller than the other.—He relates, that being one day engaged with ſome other in hunting a drove of Peccaries, they were ſurrounded by them, and obliged to take refuge upon a piece of rock; and, notwithſtanding they kept up a conſtant fire among them, the creatures did not retire till a great number of them were ſlain.



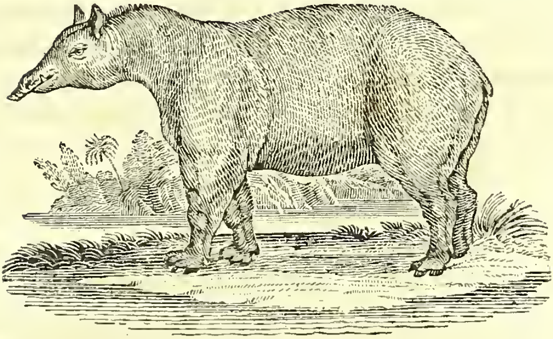
THE BABIROUSSA,

though claſſed by naturaliſts with the Hog kind, differs from animals of that ſpecies in a variety of particulars: Its legs are longer, and its body more ſlender; it is covered with ſhort hair as ſoft as wool, and of a dark-grey colour, mixed with red; its ears are ſhort and pointed; its tail is long, tufted at the end, and twiſted. Its moſt diſtinguiſhing characteriſtic conſiſts in four large tuſks, the two ſtouteſt of which proceed, like thoſe of the Wild Boar, from the under jaw, pointing upwards, and ſtanding near eight inches out of the ſockets; the two others riſe up like horns on the outſide of the upper jaw, juſt above the noſe, and extend in a curve above the eyes, almoſt touching the forehead, and are twelve inches in length. Theſe tuſks are of the moſt beautiful ivory, but not ſo hard as thoſe of the Elephant.

The Babirouſſa abounds in ſeveral of the iſlands of the Eaſt-Indies; particularly Buero, a ſmall iſle near Amboyna.

It is eaſily tamed; and its fleſh is well taſted. It lives on leaves of trees and other vegetables. Its ſcent is exquiſite: It can diſcover the approach of dogs at a diſtance. When cloſely purſued, it plunges into the ſea, ſwims and dives with great facility from one iſland to another, and by that means frequently eſcapes from its purſuers.

They live in herds; and when any number of them are together, their odour is ſo ſtrong, that the dogs can ſcent them at a conſiderable diſtance.—When attacked, they growl frightfully, and defend themſelves with their under tuſks: The upper ones are ſerviceable to them in taking their repoſe, by hooking them on the branches of trees.

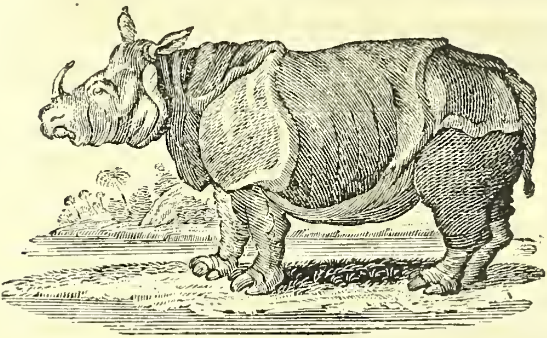


THE LONG-NOSED TAPIIR

is the *Hippopotamus* of the new world, and has by ſome authors been miſtaken for that animal.—It inhabits the woods and rivers on the eaſtern ſide of South-America, from the iſthmus of Darien to the river of the Amazons. —It is a ſolitary animal, ſleeps during the day, and goes out in the night in ſearch of food; lives on graſs, ſugar-canes, and fruits. If diſturbed, it takes to the water; ſwims with great eaſe, or plunges to the bottom; and, like the Hippopotamus, walks there as on dry ground.

It is about the ſize of a ſmall Cow: Its noſe is long and ſlender, and extends far beyond the lower jaw, forming a kind of proboſcis, which it can contract or extend at pleaſure; each jaw is furniſhed with ten cutting teeth, and as many grinders; its ears are ſmall and erect; its body formed like that of a Hog; its back arched; legs ſhort; and hoofs, of which it has four upon each foot, ſmall, black, and hollow; its tail is very ſmall; its hair ſhort, and of a duſky-brown colour.

The Tapiir is mild and inoffenſive, avoids all hoſtilities with other animals, and flies from every appearance of danger. Its ſkin, of which the Indians make bucklers, is very thick; and when dried, is ſo hard, as to reſiſt the impreſſion of an arrow. The natives eat its fleſh, which is ſaid to be very good.



THE RHINOCEROS.

We are indebted to the labours of many learned and ingenious naturaliſts for accurate deſcriptions of this wonderful creature, which in ſize is only exceeded by the Elephant, and in ſtrength and power is inferior to no other animal. Bontius ſays, that in the bulk of its body it equals the Elephant, but is lower only on account of the ſhortneſs of its legs.

The length of the Rhinoceros, from the extremity of the muzzle to the inſertion of the tail, is uſually twelve feet; and the circumference of its body nearly equal to its length. Its noſe is armed with a formidable weapon, peculiar to this creature, being a very hard and ſolid horn, with which it defends itſelf from every adverſary.

The Tiger will rather attack the Elephant, whoſe trunk it can lay hold of, than the Rhinoceros, which it cannot face, without danger of having its bowels torn out.

The body and limbs of the Rhinoceros are covered with a ſkin ſo hard and impenetrable, that he fears neither the claws of the Tiger, nor the more formidable proboſcis of the Elephant: It will turn the edge of a ſcimitar, and even reſiſt the force of a muſket-ball. The ſkin, which is of a blackiſh colour, forms itſelf into large folds at the neck, the ſhoulders, and the crupper, by which the motion of the head and limbs is facilitated; round the neck, which is very ſhort, are two large folds; there is alſo a fold from the ſhoulders, which hangs down upon the fore legs; and another from the hind part of the back to the thighs. The body is every-where covered with ſmall tuberoſities or knots, which are ſmall on the neck and back, but larger on the ſides: The thighs, legs, and even the feet, are full of theſe incruſtations, which have been miſtaken for ſcales by ſome authors: They are, however, only ſimple indurations of the ſkin, without any uniformity in their figure, or regularity in their poſition. Between the folds, the ſkin is penetrable and delicate, as ſoft to the touch as ſilk, and of a light fleſh colour: The ſkin of the belly is nearly of the ſame colour and conſiſtency.

The body of the Rhinoceros is long and thick: Its belly is large, and hangs near the ground; its legs ſhort, round, and very ſtrong; and its hoofs are divided into three parts, each pointing forward. The head of this animal is large; its ears long and erect; and its eyes ſmall, ſunk, and without vivacity: The upper lip is long, overhangs the lower, and is capable of great extenſion: It is ſo pliable, that the Rhinoceros can move it from ſide to ſide, twiſt it round a ſtick, collect its food, or ſeize with it any thing it would carry to its mouth.

The Rhinoceros, without being ferocious, carnivorous, or even extremely wild, is, however, totally untractable and rude. It ſeems to be ſubject to paroxyſms of fury, which nothing can appeaſe. That which Emanuel, king of Portugal, ſent to the pope in the year 1513, deſtroyed the veſſel in which they were tranſporting it.

Like the Hog, the Rhinoceros is fond of wallowing in the mire.—It is a ſolitary animal, loves moiſt and marſhy grounds, and ſeldom quits the banks of rivers.—It is found in Bengal, Siam, China, and other countries of Aſia; in the iſles of Java, Sumatra, Ceylon, &c.; in Ethiopia, and the country as low as the Cape of Good Hope: But in general, the ſpecies is not numerous, and is much leſs diffuſed than that of the Elephant.

The female produces but one at a time, and at conſiderable intervals.—During the firſt month, the young Rhinoceros exceeds not the ſize of a large dog. At the age of two years, the horn is not more than an inch long; at ſix years old, it is nine or ten inches long; and grows to the length of three feet and a half, and ſometimes four feet. The horn is much eſteemed by the natives as an antidote againſt poiſon, as well as a remedy for particular diſeaſes.

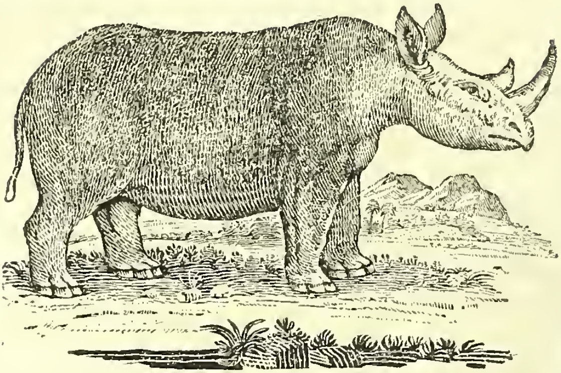
The Rhinoceros feeds on the groſſeſt herbs, and prefers thiſtles and ſhrubs to ſoft or delicate paſturage. It is fond of the ſugar-cane, and eats all kinds of grain.

Dr Parſons remarks, that this animal has an acute and very attentive ear. It will liſten with a deep and long-continued attention to any kind of noiſe; and, though it be eating, lying down, or obeying any preſſing demands of Nature, it will raiſe its head, and liſten till the noiſe ceaſe.

From the peculiar conſtruction of his eyes, the Rhinoceros can only ſee what is immediately before him. When he purſues any object, he proceeds always in a direct line, overturning every obſtruction. With the horn on his noſe, he tears up trees, raiſes ſtones, and throws them behind him to a conſiderable diſtance.—His ſenſe of ſmelling is ſo exquiſite, that the hunters are obliged to avoid being to windward of him. They follow him at a diſtance, and watch till he lies down to ſleep: They then approach with great precaution, and diſcharge their muſkets all at once into the lower part of the belly.

The Rhinoceros is ſuppoſed to be the *Unicorn* of holy writ, and poſſeſſes all the properties aſcribed to that animal,—rage, untameableneſs, great ſwiftneſs, and immenſe ſtrength.—It was known to the Romans in very early times, and is handed down to us in ſome of the works of that celebrated people. Auguſtus introduced one into the ſhows, on his triumph over Cleopatra.

Its fleſh is eaten, and much reliſhed by the natives of India and Africa.



THE TWO-HORNED RHINOCEROS.

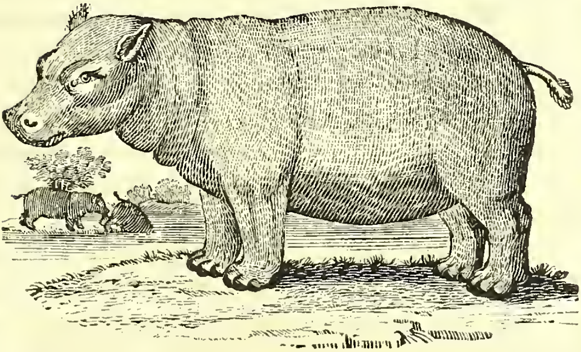
We have given the figure of this hitherto undeſcribed animal from Mr Sparrman, whoſe authenticity there is every reaſon to depend upon, and who has given a moſt exact anatomical deſcription of it. Of two that were ſhot, he only mentions the ſize of the ſmaller of them; which was eleven feet and a half long, ſeven feet high, and twelve in circumference. Its ſkin was without any folds, and of an aſh colour; excepting about the groin where it was fleſh-coloured: The ſurface was ſcabrous, and knotty, of a cloſe texture, and when dry extremely hard. There were no hairs on any part of the body, except the edges of the ears and the tip of the tail, on which were a few dark briſtly hairs, about an inch long.

The horns are placed one behind the other, in a line with the noſe: The foremoſt of them meaſures about eighteen inches in length, and is always the larger of the two. They are of a conical ſhape, and the tips incline a little backward; the lower parts are rough, and ſeem as if compoſed of horny fibres; the upper parts are ſmooth and plain, like thoſe of an Ox. It is remarkable, that the Rhinoceros makes uſe of the ſhorter horn only for the purpoſe of digging up roots, of which its food chiefly conſiſts, being endued with the power of turning the larger horn on one ſide out of the way.—The feet are round, and do not ſpread much: They have three hoofs on each of them, which project but little; the middle one is the longeſt.

The eyes of the Rhinoceros are ſmall, and ſunk into its head; in conſequence of which it ſees indiſtinctly. But its organs of hearing and ſmelling are very acute: At the leaſt noiſe, the creature takes the alarm, pricks up its ears, and liſtens with great attention: If it happen to catch the ſcent of any perſon within a ſmall diſtance, it ruſhes out with aſtoniſhing rapidity; and it is difficult to avoid the impetuous attack of this powerful animal.

It has been generally ſaid of the Rhinoceros, that its tongue is ſo hard and rough, as to take away the ſkin and fleſh wherever it licks any perſon that has unfortunately fallen a victim to its fury. Mr Sparrman ſays, however, that he thruſt his hand into the mouth of one that had juſt been ſhot, and found the tongue perfectly ſoft and ſmooth.—From the account of its inteſtines, given us by the ſame ingenious author, we ſhall juſt mention the following, which will enable our readers to form a more perfect idea of its enormous bulk:—The ſtomach was four feet in length, and two in diameter; to which was annexed a tube or canal, twenty-eight feet long, and ſix inches diameter; the kidnies were a foot and a half in breadth; the heart was a foot and a half long, and nearly the ſame in breadth; the liver, when meaſured from right to left, was found to be three feet and a half in breadth, and two feet and a half deep, as it hangs in the animal's body when in a ſtanding poſition: It had no gall-bladder, in which it reſembles the Horſe. Upon opening the ſtomach, the contents of it were found to conſiſt of roots and ſmall branches of trees maſticated, ſome of which were as big as the end of a man's finger; in the maſs there appeared a great quantity of ſucculent plants, as well as ſome that were harſh and prickly: The effluvium ariſing from this maſs was ſo far from being offenſive, that it diffuſed around a very ſtrong and not diſagreeable aromatic odour. We ſhall conclude this account by obſerving, that the cavity which contained the brains was ſmall, being only ſix inches long, and four high, and of an oval ſhape: Being filled with peaſe, it was found to contain barely one quart; a human ſkull, meaſured at the ſame time, did not require much leſs than three pints to fill it.

FIRMUM
IN VITA
NIHIL



THE HIPPOPOTAMUS.

The great difficulties that have always attended a complete inveſtigation of this huge animal, have ariſen as well from the remoteneſs of its ſituation, as from its peculiar habits and diſpoſition.

Though the Hippopotamus has been celebrated from the remoteſt antiquity; though the ſacred writings mention him under the name of *Behemoth;* and though his figure is to be ſeen engraven on Egyptian obeliſks, and on Roman medals; yet his hiſtory was very imperfectly known to the ancients. Ariſtotle ſays, that he has a mane like a Horſe, and hoofs like an Ox; tuſks and tail like a Boar; that he is of the ſize of an Aſs, and has the voice of a Horſe; with other things equally abſurd;—all which Pliny has copied; and, inſtead of correcting, has added to the number of his errors.—Of the accounts of later writers, it is much to be lamented that ſuitable delineations have not accompanied their accurate deſcriptions—A general defect, by which the ſtudy of nature has been much retarded, the laborious reſearches of many learned and ingenious naturaliſts greatly fruſtrated, and the errors of former times repeatedly copied and multiplied without number.

The ſize of the Hippopotamus is nearly equal to that of the Elephant. M. Vaillant ſays, that one which he killed, meaſured, from the tip of the noſe to the inſertion of the tail, ten feet ſeven inches, and was eight feet eleven inches in circumference; but, from the ſmallneſs of its tuſks, he ſuppoſed it to be a young one. In its ſtomach were found leaves and reeds, groſsly chewed; likewiſe ſmall branches of trees, a little bruiſed.

It inhabits all the larger rivers of Africa, from the Niger to the Cape of Good Hope; but is found in none of the African rivers that run into the Mediterranean, except the Nile, and in that part of it only which runs through the Upper Egypt, and in the fens and lakes of Ethiopia.

The head of this animal is enormouſly large; its mouth vaſtly wide. Ray ſays, that the upper mandible is moveable, like that of a Crocodile. In each jaw there are four cutting teeth; thoſe in the lower jaw point ſtraight forward: It has four large tuſks; the largeſt, which are always in the lower jaw, are ſometimes above two feet long: It is ſaid that the canine teeth are ſo hard, as to emit fire on being ſtruck with ſteel; they are perfectly white, and preferable to ivory for making artificial teeth: The grinders are ſquare or oblong, like thoſe of a man; and ſo large, that a ſingle tooth weighs above three pounds: The ſkin is of a duſky colour, bears a reſemblance to that of the Rhinoceros, but is thicker, and is made into whips: The tail is nearly a foot long, taper, and flatted at the end, which is thinly furniſhed with hairs like briſtles: Its legs are ſo ſhort, that its belly almoſt touches the ground: The hoofs are divided into four parts, unconnected by membranes.

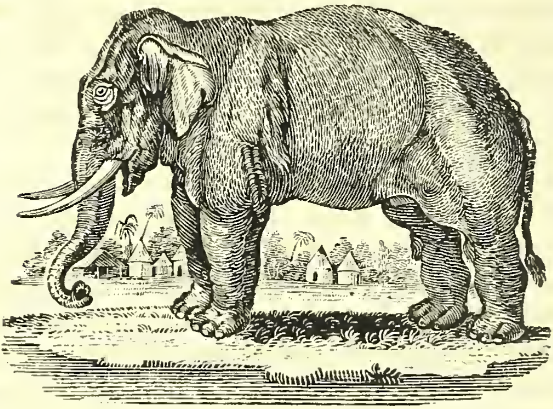
When alarmed or purſued, it takes to the water, plunges in, and ſinks to the bottom; where it walks at full eaſe. It often riſes to the ſurface, and remains with its head out of the water, making a bellowing noiſe, which may be heard at a great diſtance.—It feeds during night on the banks of the rivers, and ſometimes does great damage in the adjacent plantations of rice and other grain.

The Hippopotamus is naturally mild and gentle, very ſlow, and heavy in its movements upon land, but in the water bold and active; and when provoked or wounded, will riſe, and attack boats or canoes with great fury. Dampier ſays, he has known one of theſe animals ſink a boat full of people, by biting a hole in the bottom with its tuſks.—The method of taking it is by digging pits in the ſand, in thoſe parts through which the animal paſſes in its way to the river after it has been feeding.

The fleſh of the Hippopotamus is tender and good: The fat is fine and well taſted, and much in requeſt with the coloniſts at the Cape, who look upon it as the moſt wholeſome meat that can be eaten: The gelatinous part of the feet in particular is accounted a great delicacy: The tongue, when dried, is alſo conſidered at the Cape as a rare and excellent diſh.

Sparrman has given an engraving of this animal, taken from a young one which he caught at the Cape, from which ours is copied.——The female brings forth one young at a time.

Scaurus treated the Romans with one of theſe creatures, and five crocodiles, during his ædileſhip, and exhibited them on a temporary lake. Auguſtus produced one in the celebration of his triumph over Cleopatra.



The ELEPHANT.

Of all the creatures that have hitherto been taken into the ſervice of man, the Elephant is pre-eminent in the ſize and ſtrength of his body, and inferior to none in ſagacity and obedience.

From time immemorial this animal has been employed either for the purpoſes of labour, of war, or of oſtentatious parade; to increaſe the grandeur of eaſtern princes, extend their power, or enlarge their dominions.

The Elephant is a native of Aſia and Africa, and is not to be found in its natural ſtate either in Europe or America. From the river Senegal to the Cape of Good Hope, they are met with in great numbers. In this extenſive region, as they are more numerous than in any other part of the world, ſo are they leſs fearful of man. The ſavage inhabitants of this dreary country, inſtead of attempting to ſubdue this powerful animal, and render it ſubſervient to their neceſſities, ſeem deſirous only of avoiding its fury.

Sparrman ſays, that in the country near the Cape they are ſometimes ſeen in large herds, conſiſting of many hundreds; and thinks it probable, that in the more remote and unfrequented parts of that vaſt country they are ſtill more numerous.

They are frequently hunted by the coloniſts at the Cape, who are very expert in ſhooting them, and make great advantage of their teeth. The largeſt teeth weigh an hundred and fifty Dutch pounds, and are ſold to the governor for as many guilders; ſo that a man may earn three hundred guilders at one ſhot. It is not therefore to be wondered at, that a traffic ſo lucrative ſhould tempt the hunter to run great riſks. In approaching this animal, great care muſt be taken to ſteal upon him unperceived. If the Elephant diſcover his enemy near, he ruſhes out, and endeavours to kill him. One of theſe hunters being out upon a plain, under the ſhelter of a few ſcattered thorn trees, thought he could be able to advance near enough to ſhoot an Elephant that was at a little diſtance from him; but he was diſcovered, purſued, and overtaken by the animal, which laid hold of him with his trunk, and beat him inſtantly to death.

The height of the Elephant at the Cape is from twelve to fifteen feet. The female is leſs than the male, and her tuſks do not grow to ſuch a ſize.

In proportion to the ſize of the Elephant, his eyes are very ſmall; but they are lively, brilliant, and capable of great expreſſion. He turns them ſlowly, and with gentleneſs, towards his maſter. When he ſpeaks, the animal regards him with an eye of mildneſs and attention. —His ears are very large, and much longer, in proportion to his body, than thoſe of the Aſs: They lie flat on the head, and are commonly pendulous; but he can raiſe and move them with great facility, and frequently uſes them as a fan to cool himſelf, or defend his eyes from duſt and inſects.—His hearing is likewiſe remarkably fine; for he delights in the ſound of muſical inſtruments, and moves in cadence to the trumpet and tabor.—There are four grinders in each jaw, cloſely united together; forming, with the jaw-bone, one hard and compact body. One of theſe grinders ſometimes meaſures nine inches broad, and weighs four pounds and a half.—The texture of the ſkin is uneven, wrinkled, and knotty; full of deep fiſſures, nearly reſembling the bark of an old oak tree, which run in all directions over its ſurface. It is of a tawny colour, inclining to citron. In the fiſſures there are ſome briſtly hairs, which are alſo thinly ſcattered over the body.—The legs reſemble maſſy columns, of fifteen or eighteen inches diameter, and from five to ſix feet high.—The foot is ſhort, and divided into five toes, covered with the ſkin, ſo as not to be viſible. To each toe there is affixed a nail or hoof, of a horny ſubſtance.

The moſt remarkable feature of the Elephant is his trunk or proboſcis, which is compoſed of membranes, nerves and muſcles. It is both an organ of feeling and of motion. The animal cannot only move and bend it, but can contract, lengthen, and turn it in every direction. The extremity of the trunk terminates in a protuberance, which ſtretches out on the upper ſide in the form of a finger, and poſſeſſes in a great degree the niceneſs and dexterity of that uſeful member. It is equally flexible, and as capable of laying hold of objects as the fingers of a man. He lifts from the ground the ſmalleſt piece of money; he ſelects herbs and flowers, and picks them up one by one; he unties the knots of ropes, opens and ſhuts gates, &c. With his trunk he graſps any body which it is applied to, ſo firmly, that no force can tear it from his gripe.

Of all the inſtruments which Nature has ſo liberally beſtowed on her moſt favourite productions, the trunk of the Elephant is perhaps the moſt complete and admirable. Ray ſays, it is divided into three partitions or chambers; two of which run in ſpiral directions, and the other in a right line. It is eight feet long in an Elephant of fourteen feet high, and five feet in circumference at the thickeſt part. The noſtrils are ſituated at the extremity; through which it draws in water by a ſtrong ſuction, either for the purpoſe of quenching its thirſt, or of waſhing and cooling itſelf, which it frequently does, by taking up a large quantity; part of which it carries to its mouth, and drinks; and by elevating the trunk, allows the remainder to run over every part of its body.

Roots, herbs, leaves, and tender wood, are the ordinary food of the Elephant. He does not ruminate, and has but one ſtomach: This want, however, is amply ſupplied by the magnitude and length of his inteſtines, and particularly of the colon, which is from fifteen to twenty feet in length, and two or three in diameter. When one of them diſcovers a plentiful paſture, he calls to the others, and invites them to partake. As they require a great quantity of forage, they frequently change their paſture, and do incredible damage whenever they happen to ſtray into cultivated ground. From the weight of their bodies and the ſize of their feet, they deſtroy much more than they uſe for food.—The Indians and negroes uſe every artifice to prevent the approach of theſe unwelcome viſitants, making loud noiſes, and kindling fires round their habitations; but in ſpite of all their precautions, the Elephants often break through their fences, deſtroy their whole harveſt, and overturn their huts. It is not eaſy to ſeparate them: They generally act in concert, whether they attack, march, or fly.

The ordinary walk of the Elephant is not quicker than that of a Horſe; but when puſhed, he aſſumes a kind of ambling pace, which in fleetneſs is equal to a gallop. He goes forward with eaſe and celerity; but it is with great difficulty that he turns himſelf round; and that not without taking a pretty large circuit. It is generally in narrow and hollow places that the negroes attack him, and cut off his tail, which they value above every other part of his body.—He ſwims well, and is of great uſe in carrying great quantities of baggage over large rivers. When ſwimming, he raiſes his long trunk above the ſurface of the water for the ſake of reſpiration, every other part of his body being below: In this manner ſeveral of theſe animals ſwim together, and ſteer their courſe without danger of running foul of each other.

The Elephant, when tamed, is gentle, obedient, and docile: Patient of labour, it ſubmits to the moſt toilſome drudgery; and ſo attentive to the commands of its governor, that a word or a look is ſufficient to ſtimulate it to the moſt violent exertions. Its attachment to its keeper is ſo great, that it careſſes him with its trunk, and frequently will obey no other maſter: It knows his voice; and can diſtinguiſh the tone of command, of anger, or of approbation; and regulates its actions accordingly: It receives his orders with attention, and executes them with eagerneſs, but without precipitation. All its motions are orderly, and ſeem to correſpond with the dignity of its appearance, being grave, majeſtic, and cautious. It kneels down for the accommodation of thoſe who would mount upon its back, and with its pliant trunk even aſſiſts them to aſcend. It ſuffers itſelf to be harneſſed, and ſeems to have a pleaſure in the finery of its trappings. It is uſed in drawing chariots, waggons, and various kinds of machines. One of them will perform with eaſe the work of many horſes.

The conductor of the Elephant is uſually mounted on its neck; and makes uſe of a rod of iron, ſharp at the end, and hooked; with which he urges the animal forward, by pricking its head, ears, or muzzle: But in general, a word from the keeper is ſufficient to encourage this intelligent creature to proceed on its way, or perform the taſk aſſigned to it.—In India, where they were once employed in launching ſhips, one of them was directed to force a large veſſel into the water; which proving ſuperior to his ſtrength, the maſter, in an angry tone, cried out, ‘ Take away that lazy beaſt, and bring another in its place.’ The poor animal inſtantly redoubled its efforts, fractured its ſkull, and died upon the ſpot.

The Indians, from very early periods, have employed Elephants in their wars: Porus oppoſed the paſſage of Alexander over the Hydaſpes with eighty-five of them. M. de Buffon imagines, that it was ſome of the Elephants taken by that monarch, and afterwards tranſported into Greece, which were employed by Pyrrhus againſt the Romans.—Since the invention of fire-arms, the Elephant has been of little uſe in deciding the conteſts of hoſtile nations; for, being terrified with the flaſh of the powder, and the report that immediately ſucceeds, they are ſoon thrown into confuſion, and then become dangerous to their employers.—They are now chiefly uſed for the purpoſes of labour or magnificent parade.

The Indian princes, in their travels, are attended by hundreds of theſe animals: Some are employed to convey the ladies which compoſe the ſeraglio, in latticed cages made for that purpoſe, and covered with branches of trees; whilſt others tranſport immenſe quantities of baggage, with which the ſovereigns of the Eaſt are always accompanied in their marches from one place to another.—They are likewiſe made uſe of as the dreadful inſtruments of executing condemned criminals—a taſk which they perform with great dexterity. At the word of command, they break the limbs of the criminal with their trunks; they ſometimes trample him to death, or impale him on their enormous tuſks, juſt as they are directed by their more barbarous keeper.

It is a ſingular circumſtance in the hiſtory of this extraordinary animal, that, in a ſtate of ſubjection, it is unalterably barren; and, though it has been reduced under the dominion of man for ages, it has never been known to breed,—as if it had a proper ſenſe of its degraded condition, and obſtinately refuſed to increaſe the pride and power of its conqueror by propagating a race of ſlaves. It therefore follows, that of all the numerous bands of Elephants that are trained to ſervice, there is not one that has not been originally wild, nor one that has not been forced into a ſtate of ſubjection. To recruit, therefore, the numbers that are unavoidably conſumed by diſeaſe, accident, or age, the eaſtern princes are obliged every year to ſend into the foreſts, and uſe various methods to procure freſh ſupplies.

The manner of taking, taming, and rendering theſe animals ſubmiſſive, is curious, and well deſerves a place in the hiſtory of the Elephant. In the midſt of a foreſt abounding with Elephants, a large piece of ground is marked out, and ſurrounded with ſtrong paliſades, interwoven with branches of trees: One end of the incloſure is narrow; from which it widens gradually, ſo as to take in a great extent of country. Several thouſand men are employed upon the occaſion, who place themſelves in ſuch a manner as to prevent the wild Elephants from making their eſcape: They kindle large fires at certain diſtances, and make a dreadful noiſe with drums and various kinds of diſcordant inſtruments, calculated for the purpoſe of ſtunning and terrifying the poor animals; whilſt another party, conſiſting of ſome thouſands, with the aſſiſtance of tame female Elephants, trained for the purpoſe, drive the wild Elephants ſlowly towards the great opening of the incloſure, the whole train of hunters cloſing in after them, ſhouting, and making a great noiſe, till they are driven by inſenſible degrees into the narrow part of the incloſure, through which there is an opening into a ſmaller ſpace, ſtrongly fenced in, and guarded on all ſides. As ſoon as one of the Elephants enters this ſtrait, a ſtrong bar cloſes the paſſage from behind, and he finds himſelf completely environed. On the top of this narrow paſſage ſome of the huntſmen ſtand with goads in their hands, urging the creature forward to the end of the paſſage, where there is an opening juſt wide enough to let him paſs. He is now received into the cuſtody of two females, who ſtand on each ſide of him, and preſs him into the ſervice: If he be likely to prove refractory, they begin to diſcipline him with their trunks, till he is reduced to obedience, and ſuffers himſelf to be led to a tree, where he is bound by the leg with ſtout thongs, made of untanned elk or buck ſkin. The tame Elephants are then led back to the incloſure; and the others are made to ſubmit in the ſame manner. They are all ſuffered to remain faſt to the trees for ſeveral days. Attendants are placed by the ſide of each animal, who ſupply him with food by little and little, till he is brought by degrees to be ſenſible of kindneſs and careſſes, and allows himſelf to be led to the ſtable. In the ſpace of fourteen days, his abſolute ſubmiſſion is completed. During that time, he is fed daily with cocoa-nut leaves, and led once a day to the water by the tame ones. He becomes accuſtomed to the voice of his keeper, and at laſt quietly reſigns his prodigious powers to the dominion and ſervice of man.

The time of geſtation of the Elephant is hitherto but imperfectly known: Ariſtotle ſays, it goes two years with young; which is the more likely, as the ſeaſon of deſire in the male returns but once in three years. The female produces one young at a time. The young Elephants are ſaid to ſuck with their trunk; the teats of the female being ſituated between its fore legs.

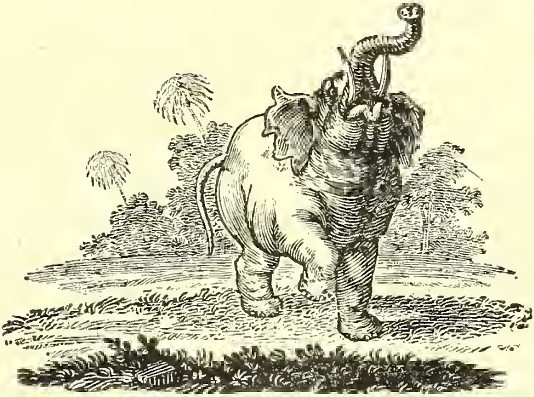
The Elephant is thirty years in arriving at its full growth; and is ſaid to live, though in a ſtate of captivity, to the age of an hundred and twenty or an hundred and thirty years: In a ſtate of unreſtrained freedom, it is ſuppoſed to live much longer.

The Elephant will drink wine, and is fond of ſpiritous liquors. By ſhewing him a veſſel filled with arrack, he is induced to exert the greateſt efforts, and perform the moſt painful taſks, in hopes of receiving it as the reward of his labour. To diſappoint him is dangerous, as he ſeldom fails to be revenged. The following inſtance is given as a fact, and deſerves to be recorded:—An Elephant, diſappointed of its reward, out of revenge killed his cornac or governor. The poor man's wife, who beheld the dreadful ſcene, took her two infants, and threw them at the feet of the enraged animal, ſaying, 'Since you have ſlain my huſband, take my life alſo, as well as that of my children.' The Elephant inſtantly ſtopped, relented, and, as if ſtung with remorſe, took the eldeſt boy in its trunk, placed him on its neck, adopted him for its cornac, and would never allow any other perſon to mount it.

This animal ſeems to know when it is mocked, and never fails to retaliate accordingly. A painter wiſhed to draw one in an unuſual attitude, with its trunk elevated, and its mouth open. In order to induce the Elephant to exhibit to more advantage, a perſon was employed to throw fruit into its mouth, who ſometimes deceived it by only making an offer of doing ſo, and retaining the fruit in his hand. Enraged at this kind of treatment, and, as it ſhould ſeem, gueſſing the painter to be the cauſe, it ejected a quantity of water from its trunk, which ſpoiled his paper, and prevented him from proceeding in his work.

We might quote many other facts equally curious and intereſting: Thoſe we have already recited are ſufficient to ſhew, that the Elephant is poſſeſſed of inſtinctive faculties ſuperior to thoſe of any other animal. We muſt at the ſame time admire the admirable order of that diſpenſation, which, to an animal of ſuch unequalled powers, has added a diſpoſition ſo mild and tractable. What ravages might we not expect from the prodigious ſtrength of the Elephant, combined with the fierceneſs and rapacity of the Tiger!

We cannot cloſe our account of the Elephant, without taking ſome notice of the teeth of that animal, which have been ſo frequently found in a foſſil ſtate in various parts of the world. Some years ago, two great grinding-teeth, and part of the tuſk of an Elephant, were diſcovered, at the depth of forty-two yards, in a lead mine, in Flintſhire, lying in a bed of gravel: The grinders were almoſt as perfect as if they had been juſt taken from the living animal; the tuſk was much decayed, and very ſoft.——Near the banks of many rivers in Siberia, large tuſks and teeth have been frequently dug up, which were formerly attributed to a creature called the *Mammouth;* but they are now univerſally believed to have belonged to the Elephant. The molares or grinders are perfectly the ſame with thoſe of the preſent race; but both they and the tuſks are much larger: Some of the latter have been known to weigh four hundred pounds; and grinders, of the weight of twenty-four pounds, have not unfrequently been diſcovered. One of theſe was taken from a ſkeleton of the ſame head in which the tuſks were found: And as the ivory of the latter was in every reſpect the ſame as that generally known, and made uſe of for the purpoſes of uſeful and ornamental works, we cannot deny our aſſent to the opinion of thoſe who ſuppoſe them to have been once parts of the animal we have juſt deſcribed.——Tuſks of a prodigious ſize, teeth, jaw-bones, thigh-bones, and vertebræ, have likewiſe been frequently found on the banks of the river Ohio, in America, five or ſix feet beneath the ſurface. Some of the tuſks are near ſeven feet long; one foot nine inches in circumference at the baſe, and one foot near the point. They differ from thoſe of the Elephant, in having a larger twiſt or ſpiral curve towards the ſmall end. There is a ſtill greater difference in the form of the grinders, which are made like thoſe of a carnivorous animal, not flat and ribbed tranſverſely on their ſurface, like thoſe of an Elephant, but furniſhed with a double row of high and conic projections, as if intended to maſticate, not grind, their food.—Specimens of theſe teeth and bones are depoſited in the Britiſh Muſeum, that of the Royal Society, and in the cabinet of the late ingenious Dr Hunter.—Theſe foſſil bones are alſo found in Peru, and in the Brazils.——As yet, the living animal has evaded the ſearch of the curious naturaliſt; but it is not improbable, that it may exiſt in ſome of thoſe remote parts of that vaſt continent, yet unpenetrated by Europeans.



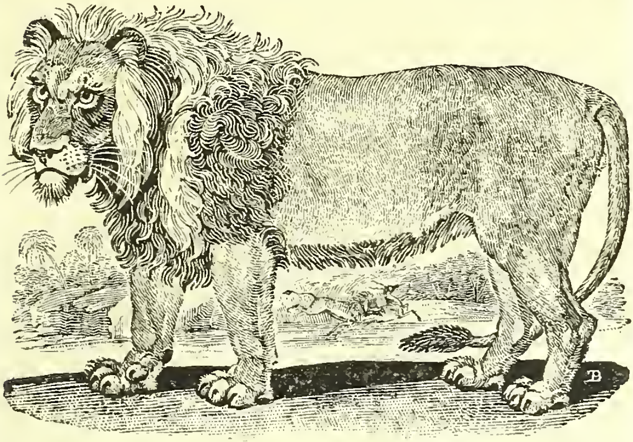
ANIMALS OF THE CAT KIND.

WE have hitherto been employed in the pleaſing taſk of deſcribing moſt of thoſe numerous tribes of animals that are more nearly connected with the intereſts of mankind; that ſerve as the inſtruments of man's happineſs, or at leaſt, that do not openly oppoſe him; that depend upon his care for their ſubſiſtence; and in their turn contribute largely to his comfort and ſupport. We have taken an ample range among the wilder inhabitants of the foreſt, which, though in a more remote degree dependant on man, are nevertheleſs objects of his attention and purſuit. We have followed Nature to her moſt retired receſſes, and have ſeen and admired her works under a variety of the moſt beautiful living forms; but our progreſs has hitherto been unſtained with blood.

The attention of our readers will now be engaged in a different purſuit. The ſcene muſt be diverſified.

We come now to a ſanguinary and unrelenting tribe, —the bold and intrepid enemies of man; that diſdain to own his power, and carry on unceaſing hoſtilities againſt him.

This numerous and ferocious tribe is chiefly diſtinguiſhed by their ſharp and formidable claws, which are lodged in a ſheath, and are capable of being extended or drawn in at pleaſure.—They lead a ſolitary and a ravenous life; and never unite for mutual defence or ſupport, like thoſe of the herbivorous kinds. They ſeek their food alone, and are frequently enemies to each other. Though differing greatly in ſize and in colour, they are nearly allied to each other in form and diſpoſition, being equally fierce, rapacious, and artful.——At the head of this numerous claſs we ſhall place



THE LION,

which is eminently diſtinguiſhed from the reſt, as well in ſize and ſtrength, as by his large and flowing mane.

This animal is produced in Africa, and the hotteſt parts of Aſia. It is found in the greateſt numbers in the ſcorched and deſolate regions of the torrid zone, in the deſerts of Zaara and Biledulgerid, and in all the interior parts of the vaſt continent of Africa. In theſe deſert regions, from whence mankind are driven by the rigorous heat of the climate, this animal reigns ſole maſter: Its diſpoſition ſeems to partake of the ardour of its native ſoil: Inflamed by the influence of a burning ſun, its rage is moſt tremendous, and its courage undaunted. Happily, indeed, the ſpecies is not numerous, and is ſaid to be greatly diminiſhed; for, if we may credit the teſtimony of thoſe who have traverſed theſe vaſt deſerts, the number of Lions is not nearly ſo great as formerly. Mr Shaw obſerves, that the Romans carried more Lions from Lybia in one year for their public ſpectacles, than could be found in all that country at this time. It is likewiſe remarked, that in Turkey, Perſia, and the Indies, Lions are not now ſo frequently met with as in former times.

It is obſerved of this animal, that its courage diminiſhes, and its caution and timidity are greater, in proportion as it approaches the habitations of the human race. Being acquainted with man, and the power of his arms, it loſes its natural fortitude to ſuch a degree, as to be terrified at the ſound of his voice. It has been known to fly even before women and children, and ſuffer itſelf to be driven away by them from its lurking places in the neighbourhood of their villages.

This alteration in the Lion's diſpoſition ſufficiently ſhews, that it will admit of a certain degree of education: And it is a well-known fact, that the keepers of wild beaſts frequently play with him, pull out his tongue, hold him by the teeth, and even chaſtiſe him without cauſe. The animal ſeems to bear all with a ſullen kind of compoſure, and rarely retaliates this unmerited treatment.——It is dangerous, however, to provoke him too far, or to depend upon his temper with too great ſecurity. Labat tells us of a gentleman who kept a Lion in his chamber, and employed a ſervant to attend it; who, as is uſual, mixed his blows with careſſes. This ill-judged aſſociation continued for ſome time. One morning the gentleman was awakened by an unuſual noiſe in his room; and, drawing his curtains, he perceived it to proceed from the Lion, which was growling over the body of the unhappy man, whom it had juſt killed, and had ſeparated his head from his body. The terror and confuſion of the gentleman may be eaſily conceived: He flew out of the room; and, with the aſſiſtance of ſome people, had the animal ſecured from doing further miſchief.

As the paſſions of this animal are ſtrong, and its appetites vehement, we ought not to preſume that the impreſſions of education will always be ſufficiently powerful. It muſt be dangerous, therefore, to ſuffer it to remain too long without food, or to perſiſt in irritating or abuſing it.

However, numberleſs accounts aſſure us, that the anger of the Lion is noble, its courage magnanimous, and its temper ſuſceptible of grateful impreſſions. It has been often ſeen to deſpiſe weak and contemptible enemies, and even to pardon their inſults, when it was in its power to puniſh them: It has been known to ſpare the life of an animal that was thrown to be devoured by it, to live in habits of perfect cordiality with it, to ſhare its ſubſiſtence, and even to give it a preference where its portion of food was ſcanty.

The form of the Lion is ſtrikingly bold and majeſtic: His large and ſhaggy mane, which he can erect at pleaſure, ſurrounding his awful front; his huge eye-brows; his round and fiery eye-balls, which, upon the leaſt irritation, ſeem to glow with peculiar luſtre; together with the formidable appearance of his teeth,—exhibit a picture of terrific grandeur, which no words can deſcribe.

The length of the largeſt Lion is between eight and nine feet, the tail about four, and its height about four feet and a half. The female is about one-fourth part leſs, and without the mane.

As the Lion advances in years, its mane grows longer and thicker. The hair on the reſt of the body is ſhort and ſmooth, of a tawny colour, but whitiſh on the belly.

The roaring of the Lion is loud and dreadful: When heard in the night, it reſembles diſtant thunder. Its cry of anger is much louder and ſhorter.

The Lion ſeldom attacks any animal openly, except when compelled by extreme hunger: In that caſe, no danger deters him. But as moſt animals endeavour to avoid him, he is obliged to have recourſe to artifice, and take his prey by ſurprize. For this purpoſe, he crouches on his belly in ſome thicket, where he waits till his prey approaches; and then, with one prodigious ſpring, he leaps upon it at the diſtance of fifteen or twenty feet, and generally ſeizes it at the firſt bound. If he miſs his object, he gives up the purſuit; and, turning back towards the place of his ambuſh, he meaſures the ground ſtep by ſtep, and again lies in wait for another opportunity.—The lurking-place of the Lion is generally choſen near a ſpring, or by the ſide of a river; where he frequently has an opportunity of catching ſuch animals as come to quench their thirſt.

There are, however, inſtances where the Lion deviates from his uſual method of taking his prey; of which the following, related by Sparrman, is remarkable:—A Hottentot, perceiving that he was followed by a Lion, and concluding that the animal only waited the approach of night to make him his prey, began to conſider of the beſt method of providing for his ſafety, which he at length effected in the following ſingular manner;—Obſerving a piece of broken ground, with a precipitate deſcent on one ſide, he ſat down by the edge of it; and found, to his great joy, that the Lion alſo made a halt, and kept at the ſame diſtance as before. As ſoon as it grew dark, the Hottentot, ſliding gently forward, let himſelf down a little below the edge of the hill, and held up his cloak and hat upon his ſtick, making at the ſame time a gentle motion with it: The Lion, in the mean while, came creeping ſoftly towards him, like a Cat; and miſtaking the ſkin cloak for the man himſelf, made a ſpring, and fell headlong down the precipice: By which means, the poor Hottentot was ſafely delivered from his inſidious enemy.

That the Lion does not always kill whatever animal happens to be in its power, has already been obſerved; and this peculiarity in its temper is remarkably obvious, with regard to the human ſpecies. Of this there have been many inſtances. At St Catherine Cree's church, Leadenhall-ſtreet, London, proviſion is made, under the will of Sir John Gager, who was lord-mayor in the year 1646, for a ſermon to be annually preached on the 16th of November, in commemoration of his happy deliverance from a Lion, which he met in a deſert as he was travelling in the Turkiſh dominions, and ſuffered him to paſs unmoleſted. The miniſter is to have 20s. for the ſermon, the clerk 2s. 6d. and the ſexton 1s. The ſum of 8l. 16s. 6d. is likewiſe to be diſtributed among the neceſſitous inhabitants, purſuant to the will of Sir John. —Sparrman, among ſeveral inſtances of the ſame nature, mentions a perſon who, though he was thrown down by a Lion, and wounded by it in ſeveral places, was after all generouſly left with his life.

The ſtrength of this animal is great: One of them was obſerved to ſeize a heifer, which it carried off in its mouth with eaſe, and leaped over a ditch without much apparent difficulty.

At the Cape of Good Hope, the Lion is frequently hunted by the coloniſts.—In the day time, and upon an open plain, twelve or ſixteen dogs will eaſily get the better of a large Lion. As the Lion is not remarkably ſwift, the dogs ſoon come pretty near him; when, with a ſullen kind of magnanimity, he turns round, and waits for the attack, ſhaking his mane, and roaring with a ſhort and ſharp tone. The hounds ſurround him; and, ruſhing upon him all at once, ſoon tear him to pieces. It is ſaid, that he has ſeldom time to make more than two or three ſtrokes with his paws; each of which is attended with the death of one of his aſſailants.

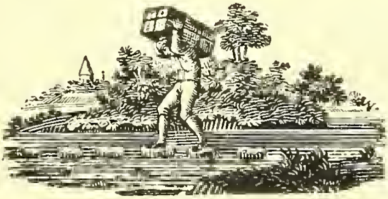
The Lioneſs goes with young five months, and brings forth three or four at a time. The young ones are about the ſize of a large pug-dog, harmleſs, pretty, and playful. They continue at the teat twelve months, and are above five years in coming to perfection.

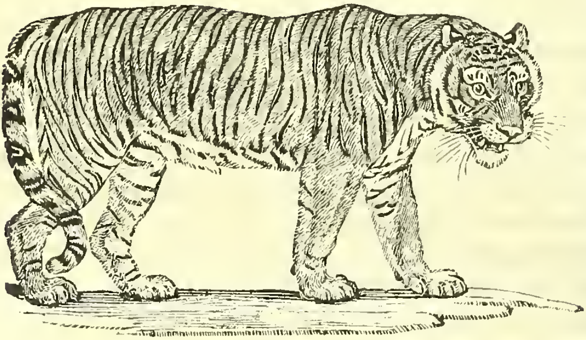
The Lion is a long-lived animal, although naturaliſts have differed greatly as to the preciſe period of its exiſtence. Buffon limits it to twenty, or twenty-two years at moſt. It is however certain, that it lives much beyond that time. The great Lion, called Pompey, which died in the year 1760, was known to have been in the Tower above ſeventy years; and one, brought from the river Gambia, died there not long ago at the age of ſixty-three.—Several of theſe animals have been bred in the Tower: So that the time of their geſtation, the number they produce, and the time of their arriving at perfection, are all pretty well known.

The attachment of the Lioneſs to her young is remarkably ſtrong: For their ſupport, ſhe is more ferocious than the Lion himſelf, makes her incurſions with greater boldneſs, deſtroys, without diſtinction, every animal that falls in her way, and carries it reeking to her cubs.—She uſually brings forth in the moſt retired and inacceſſible places; and when afraid of her retreat being diſcovered, endeavours to hide her track, by bruſhing the ground with her tail. When much diſturbed or alarmed, ſhe will ſometimes tranſport her young from one place to another in her mouth; and, if obſtructed in her courſe, will defend them to the laſt extremity.

The fleſh of the Lion is ſaid to have a ſtrong, diſagreeable flavour; yet it is frequently eaten by the negroes. The ſkin, which was formerly a robe of diſtinction for heroes, is now made uſe of by thoſe people as a mantle or a bed. They alſo preſerve the greaſe, which is of a penetrating nature, and is uſed in medicine.

The repreſentation we have given, was drawn from a remarkably fine one, exhibited at Newcaſtle in the year 1788. It was then young, extremely healthful, active, and in full condition.





THE TIGER

is the moſt rapacious and deſtructive of all carnivorous animals. Fierce without provocation, and cruel without neceſſity, its thirſt for blood is inſatiable: Though glutted with ſlaughter, it continues its carnage, nor ever gives up ſo long as a ſingle object remains in its ſight: Flocks and herds fall indiſcriminate victims to its fury: It fears neither the ſight nor the oppoſition of man, whom it frequently makes its prey; and it is even ſaid to prefer human fleſh to that of any other animal.

The Tiger is peculiar to Aſia, and is found as far North as China and Chineſe Tartary: It inhabits Mount Ararat, and Hyrcania, of old famous for its wild beaſts. The greateſt numbers are met with in India, and its iſlands. They are the ſcourge of the country: They lurk among the buſhes, by the ſides of rivers, and almoſt depopulate many places. They ſeldom purſue their prey; but bound upon it from the place of their ambuſh, with an elaſticity, and from a diſtance, ſcarcely credible. It is highly probable, that, from this circumſtance, the

Tiger may derive its name, which, in the Armenian language, ſignifies an arrow; to the flight of which this creature may very properly be compared, in the quickneſs and agility of its bounds.

The ſtrength of this animal is ſo great, that, when it has killed a Deer or other animal, it carries it off with ſuch eaſe, that it ſeems no impediment to its flight. If it be undiſturbed, it plunges its head into the body of the animal up to its very eyes, as if to ſatiate itſelf with blood.

The Tiger is one of the few animals whoſe ferocity can never be wholly ſubdued. Neither gentleneſs nor conſtraint has any effect in ſoftening its temper. It does not ſeem ſenſible of the attention of its keeper; and would equally tear the hand that feeds, with that by which it is chaſtiſed.

A beautiful young male Tiger, lately brought over from China in the Pitt Eaſt-Indiaman, at the age of ten months, was ſo far domeſticated, as to admit every kind of familiarity from the people on board. It ſeemed to be quite harmleſs, and was as playful as a kitten. It frequently ſlept with the ſailors in their hammocks; and would ſuffer two or three of them to repoſe their heads upon its back, as upon a pillow, whilſt it lay ſtretched out upon the deck. In return for this, it would, however, now and then ſteal their meat. Having one day taken a piece of beef from the carpenter, he followed the animal, took the meat out of its mouth, and beat it ſeverely for the theft; which puniſhment it ſuffered with all the patience of a dog. It would frequently run out on the bowſprit; climb about the ſhip, like a cat; and perform a number of tricks, with an agility that was truly aſtoniſhing. There was a dog on board the ſhip, with which it would often play in the moſt diverting manner.—From theſe circumſtances, one might be led to ſuppoſe, that the diſpoſition of the Tiger, like that of many other animals, was capable of ſome degree of culture. But it ought to be remembered, that at the time this one was taken on board the ſhip, it was only a month or ſix weeks old; and when arrived in this country, it had not quite compleated a year. How much longer its good humour might have continued, it is impoſſible to ſay: But it is much to be doubted, that the ſame innocent playfulneſs would have formed a part of its character when arrived at its full ſtate of maturity.

Notwithſtanding the cruelty of this creature's diſpoſition, a ſudden check has ſometimes had a good effect in preventing its meditated attack. Some ladies and gentlemen being on a party of pleaſure, under a ſhade of trees, on the banks of a river in Bengal, were ſuddenly ſurprized at ſeeing a Tiger ready to make its fatal ſpring: One of the ladies, with amazing preſence of mind, laid hold of an umbrella; and unfurling it directly in the animal's face, it inſtantly retired.—Another party had not the ſame good fortune. A Tiger darted among them whilſt they were at dinner, ſeized on a gentleman, and carried him off in the ſight of his diſconſolate companions.

They attack all kinds of animals, even the Lion; and furious combats have frequently been maintained between them, in which both have periſhed.

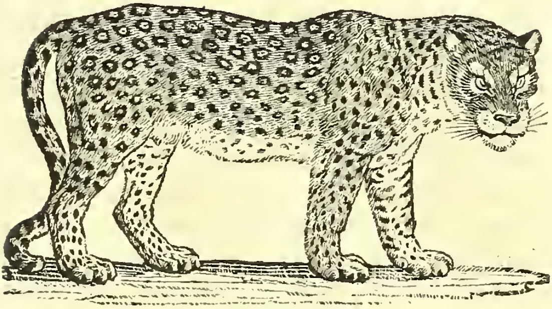
Father Tachard gives an account of a battle between a Tiger and two Elephants, at Siam; of which he was an eye-witneſs. The heads, and part of the trunks of the Elephants, were defended from the claws of the Tiger by a covering made for the purpoſe. They were placed in the midſt of a large incloſure. One of them was ſuffered to approach the Tiger, which was confined by cords, and received two or three heavy blows from the trunk of the Elephant upon its back, which beat it to the ground, where it lay for ſome time as if it were dead: But, though this attack had a good deal abated its fury, it was no ſooner untied, than, with a horrible roar, it made a ſpring at the Elephant's trunk, which that animal dexterouſly avoided by drawing it up; and, receiving the Tiger on its tuſks, threw it up into the air. The two Elephants were then allowed to come up; and, after giving it ſeveral heavy blows, would undoubtedly have killed it, if an end had not been put to the combat.—Under ſuch reſtraints and diſadvantages, we cannot wonder that the iſſue was unfavourable to the Tiger. We may however, by this, judge of its great ſtrength and fierceneſs,—that, after being diſabled by the firſt attack of the Elephant, whilſt it was held by its cords, it would venture to continue ſuch an unequal engagement.

We are happy in being able to preſent our curious readers with an engraving of this rare animal, drawn from the life, from a Tiger that was exhibited at Newcaſtle in 1787, and was generally allowed to be one of the fineſt creatures of its kind ever ſeen in England. The beautiful bars of black with which every part of its body was ſtreaked, are accurately copied: The colour of the ground was yellow, deeper on the back, and ſoftening by degrees towards the belly, where it was white; as were alſo the throat and inſides of the legs: A white ſpace, ſpotted with black, ſurrounded each eye; and on each cheek, a ſtripe of the ſame colour extended from the ears to the throat. It was nearly the ſame height as the Lion; and was of the largeſt ſpecies of the Tiger, which is called the *Royal Tiger*. The ſmalleſt of them is not above two feet high, ſaid to be extremely cunning, and delights in human fleſh. The ſecond kind is about three feet high, and is fond of deer, wild hogs, &c. which it frequently takes by the ſides of rivers, as they come down to quench their thirſt.

The ſkin of this animal is much eſteemed all over the Eaſt, particularly in China. The Mandarins cover their ſeats of juſtice with it; and, during the winter, uſe it for cuſhions and pillows.

We have now deſcribed the two great heads of this miſchievous family, which are eminently diſtinguiſhed from the reſt in ſize, ſtrength, and colour.

The three ſucceeding ſpecies have been frequently confounded with each other; and, although there is ſome difference in their ſize and in the diſpoſition of their ſpots, yet theſe have been ſo indiſcriminately defined, as to make it difficult to form a true criterion, ſo as accurately to diſtinguiſh each ſpecies. Strikingly ſimilar in the form of their bodies, in the beauty of their ſkins, as well as in their diſpoſitions and habits, which ſeem to be equally formed for rapine and cruelty,—there is great room to conjecture, that commixture may be one great cauſe of producing the ſlight differences obſervable in them.—If we regard the figure and diverſity of the ſpots, we ſhall find many varieties not taken notice of by naturaliſts; if we be led to judge by the ſize, we ſhall find an almoſt imperceptible gradation from the Cat to the Tiger. It would be vain, therefore, to make as many varieties in theſe animals, as we ſee differences in ſpots or ſtature: It will be ſufficient to point out the moſt general diſtinctions.



THE PANTHER

is next in ſize to the Tiger; and has, by many naturaliſts, been miſtaken for that animal.—Its hair is ſhort and ſmooth; and, inſtead of being ſtreaked like the Tiger, is beautifully marked on the back, ſides, and flanks, with black ſpots, diſpoſed in circles, from four to five in each, with a ſingle ſpot in the center; on the face, breaſt, and legs, the ſpots are ſingle: The colour of the body on the back and ſides is yellow, deep on the back, and paler towards the belly, which is white: Its ears are ſhort and pointed; its eye is reſtleſs; and its whole aſpect fierce and cruel.

It is an untameable animal; and inhabits Africa, from Barbary to the remoteſt parts of Guinea.

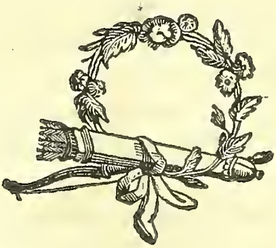
Its manner of taking its prey is the ſame with that of the Tiger,—always by ſurprize, either lurking in thickets, or creeping on its belly till it comes within reach. When preſſed with hunger, it attacks every living creature without diſtinction, but happily prefers the fleſh of brutes to that of mankind: It will even climb up trees in purſuit of monkies and leſſer animals; ſo that nothing is ſecure from its attacks.

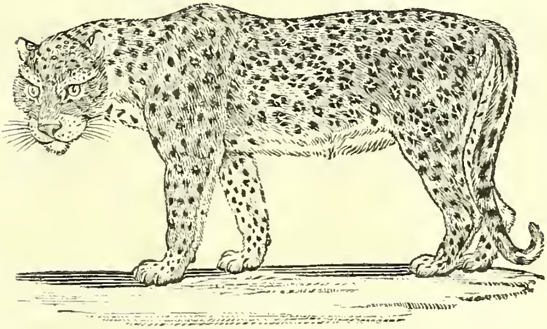
The Panther is about the ſize of a large Maſtiff Dog; but its legs are not quite ſo long. Its voice is ſtrong and hoarſe; and it growls continually.

The ancients were well acquainted with theſe animals. The Romans drew prodigious numbers from the deſerts of Africa, for their public ſhews; ſufficient, one might ſuppoſe, to have entirely exhauſted them. Scaurus exhibited an hundred and fifty of them at one time; Pompey four hundred and ten; and Auguſtus four hundred and twenty. They probably thinned the coaſts of Mauritania of theſe animals; but they ſtill ſwarm in the ſouthern parts of Guinea.

In China, there is a moſt beautiful animal of this kind, called *Louchu;* the ſkin of which ſells for ſix pounds ſterling.

An animal of this ſpecies is likewiſe found in Aſiatic Tartary, called there the *Babr.* It is ſeven feet long, extremely rapacious, and very deſtructive of horſes and camels. Its ſkin is very fine, and valued in Ruſſia at one pound ſterling.





THE LEOPARD.

The very trifling difference between this and the laſt-mentioned animal gives reaſon to ſuppoſe, that it conſiſts chiefly in the name. It inhabits the ſame countries; and in ſome places goes by the ſame name, being called the *Panther of Senegal;* and is chiefly found there. It is mentioned by Ray as the *female Panther*, but is rather ſmaller than that animal. Its length, from noſe to tail, is about four feet: The colour of the body is a more lively yellow; and the ſpots with which it is diverſified, are ſmaller and cloſer than thoſe of the Panther.

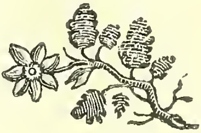
The interior parts of Africa abound with theſe animals; from whence they come down in great numbers, and make dreadful havock among the numerous herds that cover the plains of the Lower Guinea. When beaſts of chaſe fail, they ſpare no living creature.

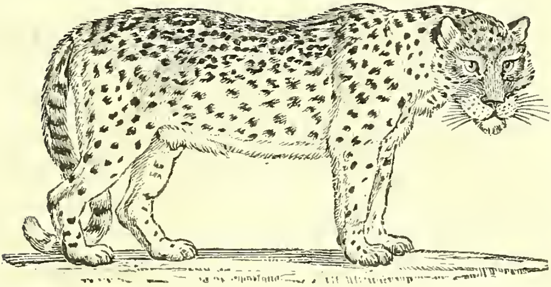
The negroes take them in pitfalls, ſlightly covered at the top, and baited with fleſh. Their chief inducement for purſuing them is their fleſh, which they eat, and is ſaid to be white as veal, and well taſted. The negreſſes make collars of their teeth, and wear them as charms.

The ſkins of theſe animals are brought to Europe, where they are greatly eſteemed.

In India, there is a ſpecies of *Leopard* about the ſize of a large Greyhound, with a ſmall head, and ſhort ears: Its face, chin, and throat, of a pale-brown colour, inclining to yellow; the body is of a light tawny-brown, marked with ſmall round black ſpots, ſcattered over the back, ſides, head, and legs; the hair on the top of the neck is longer than the reſt; the belly is white; the tail very long, marked on the upper ſide with large black ſpots.

This is the animal, mentioned in our account of the Antelope, which is made uſe of in India for hunting that and other beaſts of the chaſe.——It is carried in a ſmall kind of waggon, chained and hoodwinked till it approaches the herd; when it is unchained, and ſuffered to purſue the game. It begins by creeping along, with its belly cloſe to the ground, ſtopping and concealing itſelf till it gets an advantageous ſituation; it then darts on its prey with great agility, frequently making five or ſix amazing bounds. If it ſhould not ſucceed in its firſt effort, it gives up the point for that time, and readily returns to its maſter.





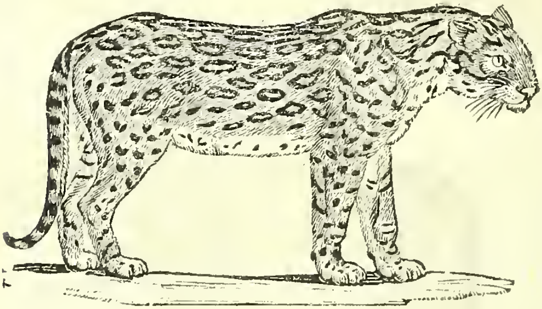
THE OUNCE

is ſmaller than the Leopard, being three feet and a half long from the noſe to the tail, very ſtrong, long-backed, and ſhort-legged. The hair is long, and of a light-grey colour, tinged with yellow; lighter on the breaſt and belly: The head is marked with ſmall round ſpots: Behind each ear there is a large black ſpot: The back is beautifully varied with a number of oval figures, formed by ſmall ſpots almoſt touching each other; the ſpots on the ſides are more irregular; thoſe on the legs and thighs ſmall, and thinly diſperſed: The tail is full of hair, irregularly marked with large black ſpots, and upwards of three feet long.

It is common in Barbary, Perſia, and China; is much more gentle than the Leopard; and, like the Hunting-Leopard, is ſometimes trained to the chaſe. Inſtead of being conveyed in a waggon, it is carried on the crupper of the Horſe, is as much under command as a Setting-Dog, returns at a call, and jumps up behind its maſter.

The ſcent of the Ounce is not ſo fine as that of the Dog.—It neither follows animals by their foot, nor is it able to overtake them in a continued chaſe: It hunts ſolely by the eye, and makes only a few ſprings at its prey. It is ſo nimble, as to clear a ditch or a wall of many feet. It often climbs trees to watch animals that are paſſing, and ſuddenly darts upon them.

It is ſuppoſed to be the *Leſſer Panther* of Oppian, and the *Panthera* of Pliny.



THE JAGUAR

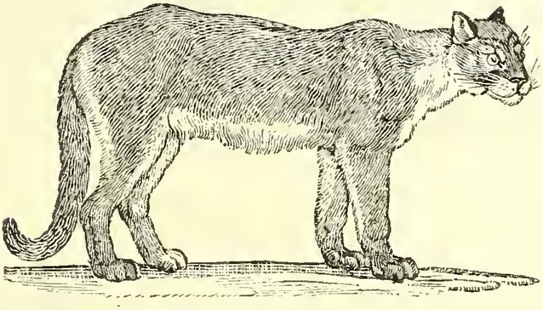
is the moſt formidable animal of the new continent, rather larger than the Panther, with hair of a bright-tawny colour. The top of the back is marked with long ſtripes of black; the ſides beautifully variegated with irregular oblong ſpots, open in the middle; the tail not ſo long as that of the Ounce, and irregularly marked with large black ſpots.

It is found in the hotteſt parts of South-America; is very fierce; and, when preſſed with hunger, will ſometimes venture to ſeize a man.

The Indians are much afraid of it, and think it prefers them to the white inhabitants, who, perhaps, are better prepared to repel its attacks. In travelling through the deſerts of Guiana, they light great fires in the night, of which theſe animals are much afraid.

They howl dreadfully. Their cry, which is expreſſive of the two monoſyllables—*hou*, *hou*, is ſomewhat plaintive, grave, and ſtrong, like that of an Ox.

The Ant-eater, though it has no teeth to defend itſelf with, is the moſt cruel enemy the Jaguar has to encounter. As ſoon as the Jaguar attacks this little animal, it lies down on its back, and, with its long claws, ſeizes and ſuffocates him.



THE COUGAR

inhabits the continent of America, and is called by ſome the *Puma*, or *American Lion;* but differs ſo much from that noble animal, as not to admit of any compariſon.—Its head is ſmall; it has no mane; its length, from noſe to tail, is five feet three inches; the tail two feet: The predominant colour is a lively red, mixed with black; eſpecially on the back, where it is darkeſt: Its chin, throat, and all the inferior parts of its body, are whitiſh: Its legs are long; claws white; and the outer claw of the fore feet much longer than the others.

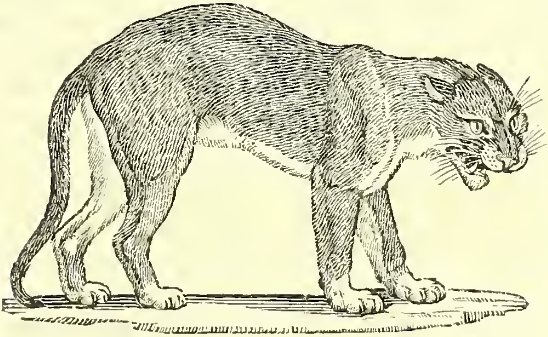
It is found in many parts of North-America, from Canada to Florida: It is alſo common in Guiana, Brazil, and Mexico.

It is fierce and ravenous in the extreme, and will ſwim rivers to attack cattle even in their incloſures.—In North-America, its fury ſeems to be ſubdued by the rigour of the climate; for it will fly from a dog in company with its maſter, and take ſhelter by running up a tree.

It is very deſtructive to domeſtic animals; particularly to Hogs. It preys alſo upon the Mooſe and other Deer; lies lurking upon the branch of a tree till ſome of theſe animals paſs underneath, when it drops down upon one of them, and never quits its hold till it has drunk its blood. It will even attack beaſts of prey. In the Muſeum of the Royal Society is preſerved the ſkin of one of theſe animals, which was ſhot juſt as it had ſeized a Wolf.—When ſatisfied with eating, it conceals the reſt of the carcaſe, covering it carefully with leaves.——It purrs like a Cat, and ſometimes howls dreadfully.

The fur is ſoft, and is uſed by the Indians for a winter habit; when dreſſed, it is made into gloves and ſhoes. The fleſh is white, and, by the natives, reckoned excellent food.

The Couguar, when brought into captivity, is almoſt as gentle as the domeſtic Cat, allows itſelf to be careſſed, and will permit boys to mount on its back.——It is ſometimes called the *Poltron Tiger*.



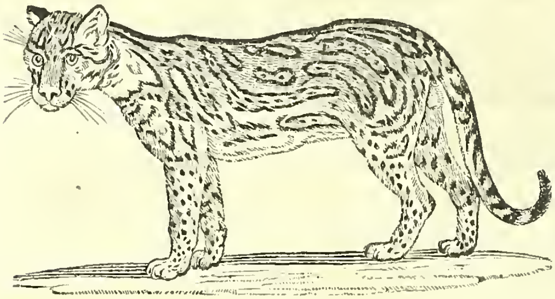
THE BLACK-TIGER

differs from the former chiefly in the colour, which is duſky, ſometimes ſpotted with black, but generally plain. The throat, belly, and inſide of the legs, are of a pale-aſh colour; the upper lip white, covered with long whiſkers: Above each eye, it has very long hairs; and at the corner of the mouth, a black ſpot: Its paws are white; and its ears ſharp and pointed.

It grows to the ſize of a heifer of a year old, and has great ſtrength in its limbs.

It inhabits Brazil and Guiana, is a cruel and fierce animal, much dreaded by the Indians; but fortunately the ſpecies is not numerous.

M. de la Borde, in his deſcription of theſe animals, ſays, that they frequent the ſea-ſhore, and eat the eggs depoſited there by the turtles. They likewiſe eat caimans or alligators, lizards, and fiſhes, and ſometimes the buds and tender leaves of the Indian fig.—They are excellent ſwimmers.—In order to catch the alligator, they lie down on their belly at the edge of the river, ſtrike the water to make a noiſe, and as ſoon as the alligator raiſes its head above the water, dart their claws into its eyes, and drag it on ſhore.



THE OCELOT.

The ſkin of the male Ocelot is extremely beautiful, and moſt elegantly variegated. Its general colour is that of a bright-tawny; a black ſtripe extends along the top of the back, from head to tail; its forehead is ſpotted with black, as are alſo its legs; its ſhoulders, ſides, and rump, are beautifully marbled with long ſtripes of black, forming oval figures, filled in the middle with ſmall black ſpots; its tail is irregularly marked with large ſpots, and black at the end.—The colours of the female are not ſo vivid as thoſe of the male; neither is it ſo beautifully marked.

The Ocelot very much reſembles the common Cat in the form of its body, although it is a great deal larger. Buffon makes its height two feet and a half, and about four feet in length.

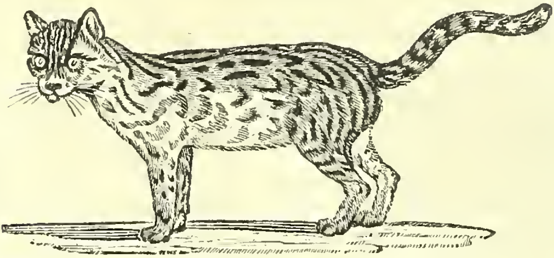
It is a native of South-America, inhabits Mexico and

Brazil, is very voracious, but timid, and ſeldom attacks men. It is afraid of dogs; and when purſued, flies to the woods.

It lives chiefly in the mountains, and conceals itſelf amongſt the leaves of trees; from whence it darts upon ſuch animals as come within its reach. It ſometimes extends itſelf along the boughs, as if it were dead, till the monkies, tempted by their natural curioſity, approach within its reach.—It is ſaid to prefer the blood of animals to their fleſh.

The Ocelot cannot eaſily be tamed, and retains its original wildneſs in a ſtate of captivity. Nothing can ſoften the natural ferocity of its diſpoſition, nor calm the reſtleſſneſs of its motions. For this reaſon, it is always kept in a cage.—One of theſe animals, ſhewn at Newcaſtle in 1788, although extremely old, exhibited great marks of ferocity. It was kept cloſely confined, and would not admit of being careſſed by its keeper in the ſame manner as the Lion; but growled conſtantly, and always appeared in motion.—A male and female Ocelot were brought to France ſome years ago, which had been taken when very young. At the age of three months, they became ſo ſtrong and fierce, as to kill a bitch that was given them for a nurſe. When a live Cat was thrown to them, they ſucked its blood, but would not taſte its fleſh. The male ſeemed to have a great ſuperiority over the female, as he never allowed her to partake till his own appetite was ſatisfied.

The female Ocelot, like all the larger animals of the Cat kind, produces a ſmall number at a time. The two above mentioned were the only young ones found with the mother, which was killed at the time they were taken; and makes it probable, that they bring forth only that number.



THE MARGAY

is another beautiful animal of the ſpotted tribe, and known in many places by the name of the *Tiger Cat.* The ground colour of the body is tawny; the face is ſtriped with black; the body is marked with ſtripes and large ſpots of black; the breaſt, and inſides of the legs, are white, ſpotted with black; the tail is long, marked with alternate ſpots of black, tawny, and grey.

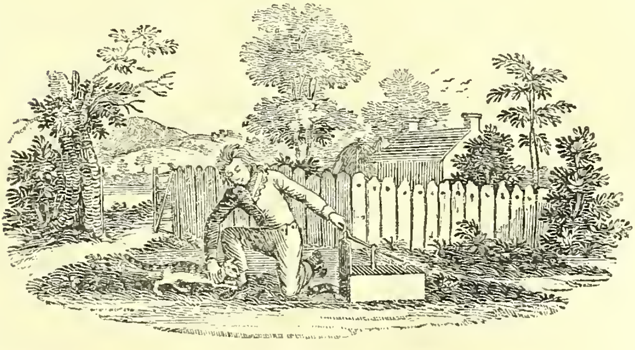
The Margay is ſmaller than the Ocelot, and about the ſize of the Wild Cat, which it reſembles in diſpoſition and habit, living on ſmall animals, birds, &c.——It is very wild, and cannot eaſily be brought under ſubjection.

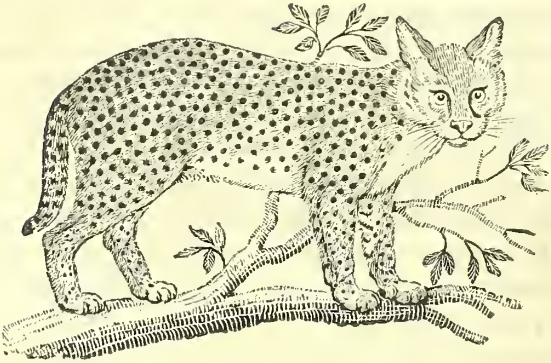
Its colours vary, though they are generally ſuch as have been deſcribed.

It is common in Guiana, Brazil, and various parts of South-America.

It is called the *Cayenne Cat*, and is not ſo frequent in temperate as in warm climates.

In taking a ſurvey of this beautiful race of animals, we are unavoidably led to obſerve, that much remains for the laborious reſearches of the natural hiſtorian, before a complete account can be made out of the various kinds of which it is compoſed.—Several ſpecies are frequently found in the Eaſt-Indies, in the woods near the Cape of Good Hope, and in the continent of America; but in general theſe have been ſo negligently or ſo injudiciouſly mentioned, as to render it impoſſible to form a perfect deſcription of them.——A good hiſtory of theſe animals is one of the many deſiderata of the naturaliſt; but when we conſider the great diſtance which moſt of this ferocious tribe obſerve in their ſeparation from mankind, and the dangers that muſt be encountered in approaching their ſolitary habitations, we are obliged to lament that this deſirable object is not likely to be ſoon accompliſhed.





THE SERVAL

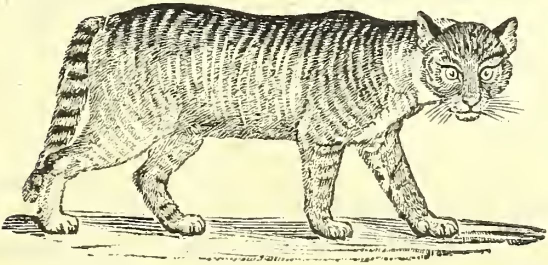
inhabits the mountainous parts of India; and is called, by the natives of Malabar, the *Marapute*.—It is larger than the Wild-Cat.—Its general colour is a pale-yellow; white on the breaſt and belly; variegated with round ſpots, which are equally diſtributed over every part of its body: Its eyes are extremely brilliant, and have a wild, piercing look; its whiſkers are long and ſtiff; its tail ſhort; and its feet are armed with long hooked claws.

It is ſeldom to be ſeen upon the ground; but lives chiefly in trees, where it makes its neſt, and breeds its young. It feeds on young birds, and leaps with great agility from tree to tree. It is extremely fierce; but avoids mankind, unleſs provoked; when it darts furiouſly upon the offender, and tears and bites nearly in the ſame manner as the Panther.

Sparrman mentions an animal of this kind, found at the Cape of Good Hope, which he calls the *Tiger Cat*, and ſuppoſes to be the ſame with the Serval.

The ſame author mentions another animal of this kind, called at the Cape the *Wild Red Cat;* the ſkin of which is ſuppoſed by the natives to poſſeſs great medicinal powers, and give eaſe to perſons afflicted with the gout, lumbago, and pains in the joints. The fur is very fine and ſoft: And probably, there are many other ſkins, which, if applied with an equal degree of good faith, might have the ſame ſalutary effects.

The colour of the upper part of this creature is of a very bright-red; towards the ſides it is mixed with white and grey; the belly is white; the upper part of the ears, which have tufts of hair on their tips, is dark-brown, ſprinkled with grey. Its body is long, and about two feet in height.



THE WILD-CAT.

The hiſtory of this animal is ſo intimately connected with that of the common or domeſtic kind, that we ſhall include our account of both under one general head, and deſcribe them as conſtituting the ſame ſpecies.

The domeſtic Cat, if ſuffered to eſcape into the woods, becomes wild, and lives on ſmall birds and ſuch other game as it can find there. It likewiſe breeds with the wild one. It is no uncommon thing for females of the tame ſpecies to quit their houſes during the time they are in ſeaſon, go in queſt of male Wild-Cats, and return to the ſame habitations impregnated by them. It is by this means, that ſome of our domeſtic Cats ſo perfectly reſemble thoſe of the wild breed.

The hair of the Wild-Cat is ſoft and fine, of a pale-yellow colour, mixed with grey; a duſky liſt runs along the middle of the back, from head to tail; the ſides are ſtreaked with grey, pointing from the back downwards; the tail is thick, and marked with alternate bars of black and white. It is larger and ſtronger than the tame Cat, and its fur much longer.

It inhabits the moſt mountainous and woody parts of this iſland, lives in trees, and hunts for birds and ſmall animals; ſuch as rabbits, hares, rats, mice, moles, &c. It frequently makes great havock among poultry; will even kill young lambs, kids, and fawns; and is the fierceſt and moſt deſtructive beaſt of prey in this kingdom.

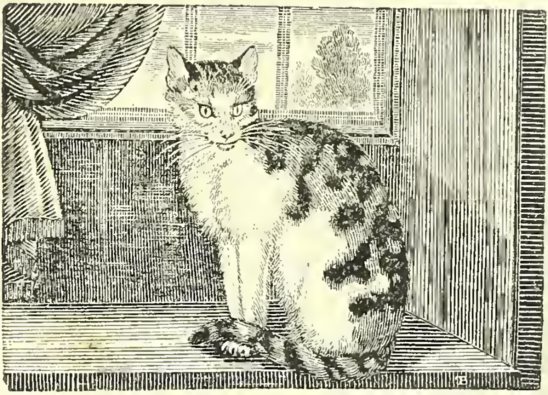
It is taken either in traps, or by ſhooting. There is frequently danger in the latter mode; for if it be only ſlightly wounded, it will attack the perſon who has injured it, and is not eaſily repelled.

Wild-Cats are found, with very little variety, in almoſt every climate.—They exiſted in America before its diſcovery by the Europeans. One of them was brought to Columbus, which was of the ordinary ſize, of a browniſh-grey colour, with a long tail.—They are common in many places of Aſia and Africa.—Sparrman gives a deſcription of one which he ſhot at the Cape, which was in every reſpect ſimilar to thoſe of this country. It was of a grey colour; and meaſured, from the noſe to the tail, nearly twenty-two inches: The tail was thirteen inches long: Its height was about a foot and a half. Its inteſtines were full of moles and rats.

Some Wild-Cats have been taken in this kingdom of a moſt enormous ſize. We recollect one having been killed in the county of Cumberland, which meaſured, from its noſe to the end of its tail, upwards of five feet.

The province of Chorazan, in Perſia, is particularly famous for a moſt beautiful *Cat*, about the ſize of the tame one, of a fine grey colour, without any mixture, and as ſoft and ſhining as ſilk. It is darker on the back, ſoftening by degrees towards the breaſt and belly, where it is almoſt white. The tail is long, and covered with hair, five or ſix inches in length. The animal frequently turns it upon its back, like a ſquirrel; the point of it reſembling a plume of feathers.

The *Cat of Angora* differs greatly from the Wild-Cat, in having much longer hair, eſpecially about the neck, where it forms a fine ruff, and gives it a lion-like appearance. Some of theſe are of a ſilvery whiteneſs, and ſilky texture; others are of a dun colour, mixed with yellow.



THE DOMESTIC CAT

differs from the Wild-Cat, in being ſomewhat leſs; and, inſtead of being uniformly the ſame, is diſtinguiſhed by a great variety of ſhades and colouring.

To deſcribe an animal ſo well known, might ſeem a ſuperfluous taſk: We ſhall only, therefore, ſelect ſuch of its peculiarities as are leaſt obvious, and may have eſcaped the notice of inattentive obſervers.

It is generally remarked, that Cats can ſee in the dark; but, though this is not abſolutely the caſe, yet it is certain that they can ſee with much leſs light than moſt other animals, owing to the peculiar ſtructure of their eyes, the pupils of which are capable of being contracted or dilated in proportion to the degree of light by which they are affected. The pupil of the Cat, during the day, is perpetually contracted; and it is with difficulty that it can ſee by a ſtrong light: But in the twilight, the pupil reſumes its natural roundneſs, the animal enjoys perfect viſion, and takes advantage of this ſuperiority to diſcover and ſurprize its prey.

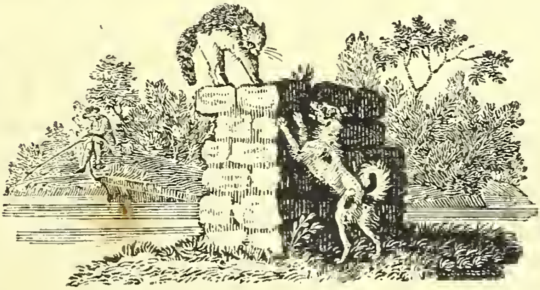
The cry of the Cat is loud, piercing, and clamorous; and whether expreſſive of anger or of love, is equally violent and hideous.—Its call may be heard at a great diſtance; and is ſo well known to the whole fraternity, that on ſome occaſions ſeveral hundred Cats have been brought together from different parts. Invited by the piercing cries of diſtreſs from a ſuffering fellow-creature, they aſſemble in crowds; and, with loud ſqualls and yells, expreſs their horrid ſympathies. They frequently tear the miſerable object to pieces; and, with the moſt blind and furious rage, fall upon each other, killing and wounding indiſcriminately, till there is ſcarcely one left. Theſe terrible conflicts happen only in the night; and, though rare, inſtances of very furious engagements are well authenticated.

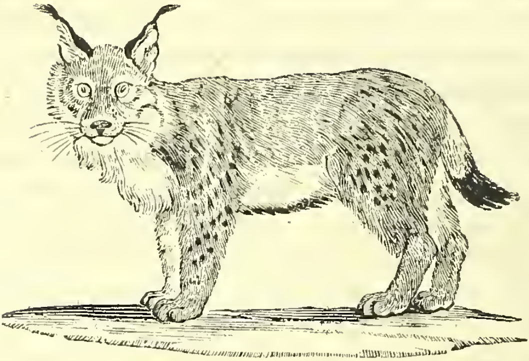
The Cat is particularly averſe to water, cold, and bad ſmells.—It is fond of certain perfumes; but is more particularly attracted by the ſmell of valerian, marum, and cat-mint. It rubs itſelf againſt them; and, if not prevented from coming at them in a garden where they are planted, would infallibly deſtroy them.

The Cat brings forth twice, and ſometimes thrice, a year. The period of her geſtation is fifty-five or fifty-ſix days; and ſhe generally produces five or ſix at one litter. She conceals her kittens from the male, leſt he ſhould devour them, as he is ſometimes inclined; and, if apprehenſive of being diſturbed, will take them up in her mouth, and remove them one by one to a more ſecure retreat: Even the female herſelf, contrary to the eſtabliſhed law of Nature, which binds the parent to its offſpring by an almoſt indiſſoluble tie, is ſometimes known to eat her own young the moment after ſhe has produced them.

Though extremely uſeful in deſtroying the vermin that infeſt our houſes, the Cat ſeems little attached to the perſons of thoſe that afford it protection. It ſeems to be under no ſubjection, and acts only for itſelf. All its views are confined to the place where it has been brought up; if carried elſewhere, it ſeems loſt and bewildered: Neither careſſes nor attention can reconcile it to its new ſituation; and it frequently takes the firſt opportunity of eſcaping to its former haunts.—Frequent inſtances are in our recollection, of Cats having returned to the place from whence they had been carried, though at many miles diſtance, and even acroſs rivers, when they could not poſſibly have any knowledge of the road or ſituation that would apparently lead them to it.—This extraordinary faculty is, however, poſſeſſed in a much greater degree by Dogs; yet it is in both animals equally wonderful and unaccountable.

In the time of Hoel the Good, king of Wales, who died in the year 948, laws were made as well to preſerve, as to fix the different prices of animals; among which the Cat was included, as being at that period of great importance, on account of its ſcarcity and utility. The price of a kitten before it could ſee was fixed at one penny; till proof could be given of its having caught a mouſe, two-pence; after which it was rated at fourpence, which was a great ſum in thoſe days, when the value of ſpecie was extremely high: It was likewiſe required, that it ſhould be perfect in its ſenſes of hearing and ſeeing, ſhould be a good mouſer, have its claws whole, and, if a female, be a careful nurſe: If it failed in any of theſe good qualities, the ſeller was to forfeit to the buyer the third part of its value.—If any one ſhould ſteal or kill the Cat that guarded the prince's granary, he was either to forfeit a milch ewe, her fleece, and lamb, or as much wheat as, when poured on the Cat ſuſpended by its tail (its head touching the floor), would form a heap high enough to cover the tip of the former.——From hence we may conclude, that Cats were not originally natives of theſe iſlands; and, from the great care taken to improve and preſerve the breed of this prolific creature, we may ſuppoſe, were but little known at that period.——Whatever credit we may allow to the circumſtances of the well-known ſtory of Whittington and his Cat, it is another proof of the great value ſet upon this animal in former times.





THE LYNX

differs greatly from every animal of the Cat kind we have hitherto deſcribed. Its ears are long and erect, tufted at the end with long black hairs, by which this ſpecies of animals is peculiarly diſtinguiſhed: The hair on the body is long and ſoft, of a red-aſh colour, marked with duſky ſpots, which differ according to the age of the creature; ſometimes they are ſcarcely viſible: Its legs and feet are very thick and ſtrong; its tail ſhort, and black at the extremity; its eyes are of a pale-yellow colour; and its aſpect ſofter and leſs ferocious than that of the Panther or the Ounce. The ſkin of the male is more ſpotted than that of the female.

The fur is valuable for its ſoftneſs and warmth, and is imported in great quantities from America and the North of Europe.—The farther North they are taken, the whiter they are, and the ſpots more diſtinct.—The moſt elegant of thoſe is called the *Irbys;* and is taken near lake Balkaſh, in Uſbec Tartary. It is much larger than the common kind. Its ſkin ſells in that country for one pound ſterling.—The colour of its hair changes with the climate and the ſeaſon. The winter furs are richer and more beautiful than thoſe taken in ſummer.

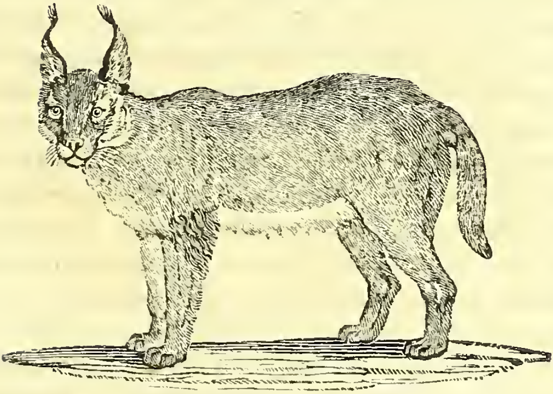
The Lynx is ſaid to be very long-lived, is a very deſtructive animal, lives by hunting, and purſues its prey to the tops of the higheſt trees. It feeds on Weaſels, Ermines, Squirrels, &c. which are unable to eſcape it. It watches the approach of the Fallow-deer, Hare, and other animals; and darts upon them from the branches of trees, where it lies concealed; ſeizes them by the throat, and drinks their blood; after which, it abandons them, and goes in queſt of freſh game.—Its ſight is remarkably quick; and it ſees its prey at a great diſtance. —It often eats no more of a Sheep or a Goat than the brain, the liver, and the inteſtines. It will ſometimes dig under the doors to gain admiſſion into the ſheepfold. ——When attacked by a Dog, it lies down on its back, ſtrikes deſperately with its claws, and frequently obliges its aſſailant to retreat.

Although the Lynx has nothing in common with the Wolf, it has been diſtinguiſhed by the name of *Lupus-Cervarius*, or the *Stag-Wolf.* Its manner of howling is ſimilar to that of the Wolf; and when heard at a diſtance, is not eaſily diſtinguiſhed from the cry of that animal. The epithet *cervarius* has been added, becauſe its ſkin is variegated with ſpots like that of a young Stag.

A variety is found in the inner parts of the province of New-York, which is called the *Bay Lynx*, and is about twice the ſize of a large Cat. Its hair is ſhort and ſmooth; its general colour is a bright-bay, obſcurely marked with duſky ſpots; on its face there are black ſtripes, pointing downward towards the noſe; on each ſide of the upper lip it has three rows of ſmall black ſpots, with long whiſkers iſſuing from them; each cheek is marked with long black ſtripes, of a circular form proceeding from the corners of the eyes; the under part of the body, and inſides of the legs, are white; the inſide of each fore leg is marked on the upper part with two black bars; its tail, which is ſhort, is marked with bars of a duſky colour, and at the end with one of a deep-black; the tip and under ſide are white.

The Lynxes of our days muſt be very different animals from thoſe which have been deſcribed by poets as drawing the chariot of Bacchus; for, beſide the impracticability of training theſe animals to the yoke, we find, that the Lynx is not an inhabitant of India, nor of any of the warmer countries of Aſia conquered by that hero.—It prefers cold to even temperate climates; and is common in the foreſts of the northern parts of Europe, Aſia, and America.

The ancients ſeem to have given the name of *Lynx* to an animal which exiſted only in imagination, and may be ranked with their other ideal monſters and prodigies,—the Sphynx, the Pegaſus, and the Unicorn.—Its ſight was ſaid to penetrate the moſt opaque bodies, and its urine to be converted into a precious ſtone.



THE CARACAL

reſembles the Lynx in ſize, figure, and aſpect, as well as in having its ears tipt with a pencil of black hairs.—It differs from the laſt-mentioned animal, in not being ſpotted; its hair is rougher, and of a pale reddiſh-brown; its tail is longer, and of an uniform colour; its face is more lengthened, its look more fierce, and its nature and diſpoſition more ſavage.

This animal is found only in warm climates; and is common in Perſia, India, Barbary, and in all the countries inhabited by the Lion, the Panther, and the Ounce. —It is called in Perſia the *Syah-Guſh;* and in the Turkiſh language, the *Karrah-Kulak.* Both theſe names ſignify the *Cat with black Ears.*—It is ſaid to follow the Lion, and to feed on the remains which that animal leaves of his prey; for which reaſon it is called among the Arabs the *Lion's Guide.*

The Caracal is about the ſize of a Fox; but much ſtronger, and more ferocious. It has been known to attack a Hound, and inſtantly tear it to pieces.

This animal is extremely difficult to tame; but when taken young, and reared with great caution, it may be trained to the chaſe.——It is uſed in taking the ſmaller ſort of animals, in which it is very ſucceſsful; but it is active only in the purſuit of thoſe that are too feeble for reſiſtance, or too timid to exert their powers. Whenever it meets with one that is ſuperior to it in ſtrength, it loſes its courage, and gives up the chaſe.—It is likewiſe employed in catching birds; ſuch as cranes, pelicans, peacocks, &c.; which it ſurprizes with ſingular addreſs.—When it has ſeized its prey, it holds it faſt in its mouth, and lies upon it for ſome time quite motionleſs.

There are ſome varieties in this animal.—The face of the *Nubian Caracal* is rounder; the ears black on the outſide, interſperſed with ſilver-coloured hairs; on the breaſt, belly, and inſides of the thighs, there are ſmall bright-yellow ſpots; and it has the mule croſs on the withers, like moſt of the Barbary Caracals.

In Lybia, there are *Caracals* with white ears, tufted at the end with thin black hairs: They have white tails, the extremities of which are ſurrounded with four black rings; and on the hind part of each leg, there are four black ſpots. They are ſmall, not exceeding the ſize of a domeſtic Cat.

We have now gone through all the principal varieties which conſtitute this numerous race; in all of which, as has been already obſerved, from the Lion to the common Cat, we may perceive a ſtriking ſimilitude in diſpoſition, form, and manners. This agreement is likewiſe obſervable in their internal conformation, which is ſtill more exact,—in the ſhortneſs of their inteſtines, the ſharpneſs and number of their teeth, and in the ſtructure of their feet and claws. They are all equally carnivorous; and tear, rather than chew their meat. They eat ſlowly; and growl whilſt they feed, as if afraid of loſing their prey. They are all cowardly, and ſeldom make an attack but where conqueſt is certain.

Animals of this race may be conſidered as the moſt formidable enemies of mankind. There are others more powerful; but their diſpoſitions are milder; and they ſeldom offend till they find themſelves injured: Others are more numerous; but they are weaker, and find their ſafety not in oppoſing, but in flying from man. Theſe are the only quadrupeds that in any degree make good their ground againſt him, and maintain a kind of divided ſway over many fair and fertile tracts, that ſeem, in other reſpects, formed for the comfort and convenience of ſocial life.

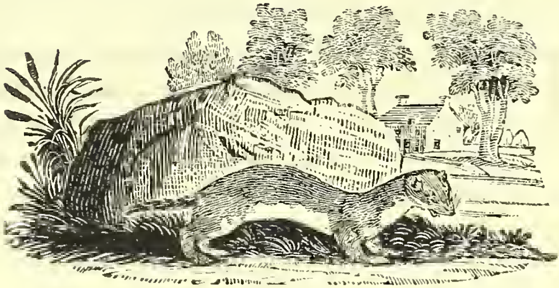
ANIMALS OF THE WEASEL KIND.

THESE little, active, and enterprizing animals are particularly diſtinguiſhed from other carnivorous kinds, by the length and ſlenderneſs of their bodies, which are admirably adapted to their manner of living, and methods of taking their prey. They are ſo ſmall and flexible, as to wind like worms into very ſmall crevices and openings; whither they eaſily follow the little animals that ſerve them for food.

All the animals of this kind are furniſhed with ſmall glands, placed near the anus, from which an unctuous matter continually exudes: The effluvia of it is extremely offenſive in the Polecat, Ferret, Weaſel, &c.; but in the Civet Cat, Martin, and Pine Weaſel, it is an agreeable perfume.—They are all equally marked for rapine and cruelty: They ſubſiſt only by theft, and find their chief protection in their minuteneſs. They are all, from the ſhortneſs of their legs, ſlow in purſuit; and make up that deficiency by patience, aſſiduity, and cunning.

As their prey is precarious, they can live a long time without food. When they fall in with plenty, they immediately kill every thing within their reach, before they begin to ſatisfy their appetite; and always ſuck the blood of every animal they kill, before they eat its fleſh.

Theſe are the principal peculiarities common to this kind; all the ſpecies of which have ſo ſtriking a reſemblance to each other, that having ſeen one, we may form a very juſt idea of the reſt.—The moſt obvious difference conſiſts in their ſize. We ſhall therefore begin with the ſmalleſt of this numerous claſs, and proceed gradually upwards to the largeſt.



THE WEASEL.

The length of this animal does not exceed ſeven inches, from the noſe to the tail; which is only two inches and a half long, and ends in a point: Its height is not above two inches and a half; ſo that it is nearly five times as long as it is high.

The moſt prevailing colour of the Weaſel is a pale reddiſh-brown on the back, ſides, and legs; the throat and belly are white; beneath the corners of the mouth, on each jaw, is a ſpot of brown. It has whiſkers, like a Cat: Its ears are large, and have a fold at the lower part, that gives them the appearance of being double; its eyes are ſmall, round, and black; its teeth are thirty-two in number, and extremely ſharp.

The Weaſel is very common, and well known in moſt parts of this country; is very deſtructive to young birds, poultry, rabbits, &c.; and is a keen devourer of eggs, which it ſucks with great avidity. It will follow a hare, which is terrified into a ſtate of abſolute imbecility at the ſight of this little animal, and gives itſelf up to it without reſiſtance, making at the ſame time the moſt piteous outcries.

The bite of the Weaſel is generally fatal. It ſeizes its prey near the head, and fixes its ſharp teeth into a vital part. A hare, rabbit, or any other ſmall animal, bit in this manner, is never known to recover; but lingers for ſome time, and dies. The wound is ſo ſmall, that the place where the teeth enter can ſcarcely be perceived.

It is remarkably active; and will run up the ſides of a wall with ſuch facility, that no place is ſecure from it.

The Weaſel is very uſeful to the farmer, and much encouraged by him. During winter, it frequents his barns, out-houſes, and granaries; which it effectually clears of rats and mice. It is, indeed, a more deadly enemy to them than even the Cat itſelf; for, being more active and ſlender, it purſues them into their holes, and kills them after a ſhort reſiſtance. It creeps alſo into pigeon holes, and deſtroys the young ones; catches ſparrows, and all kinds of ſmall birds; and when it has brought forth its young, it hunts with ſtill greater boldneſs and avidity.—In ſummer, it ventures at a diſtance from its uſual haunts; is frequently found by the ſide of waters, near corn-mills; and is almoſt ſure to follow wherever a ſwarm of rats has taken poſſeſſion of any place.

The evening is the time when it begins its depredations. Towards the cloſe of the day, it may frequently be ſeen ſtealing from its hole, and creeping about the farmer's yard in ſearch of its prey. If it enter the place where poultry are kept, it ſeldom attacks the cocks or the old hens, but always aims at the young ones. It does not eat its prey on the ſpot where it has killed it; but, where it is not too large, carries it away to its retreat. It alſo breaks and ſucks all the eggs it can meet with; and, not unfrequently, kills the hen that attempts to defend them.

The Weaſel is a wild and untractable little animal. When kept in a cage, it ſeems in a continual ſtate of agitation, is terrified at the ſight of every perſon that approaches to look at it, and hides itſelf in the wool or hay which is given to it for that purpoſe.

It conveys all its food to its hiding-place, and will not touch it till it begin to putrefy.—It paſſes the greateſt part of the day in ſleeping, and uſually employs the night in exerciſe and eating.

The female brings forth in the ſpring, and generally produces four or five at one litter. She prepares a bed for them of ſtraw, leaves, and moſs. The young are brought forth blind; but very ſoon acquire ſtrength enough to follow their dam, and aſſiſt in her excurſions. They will attack ſerpents, water-rats, moles, field-mice, &c.: They overrun the meadows; and frequently kill the partridges, and ſuck their eggs.

The motion of the Weaſel conſiſts of unequal and precipitant leaps; and in climbing a tree, it makes a conſiderable ſpring of ſome feet from the ground. It jumps in the ſame manner upon its prey; and being extremely limber, evades the attempts of much ſtronger animals to ſeize it.

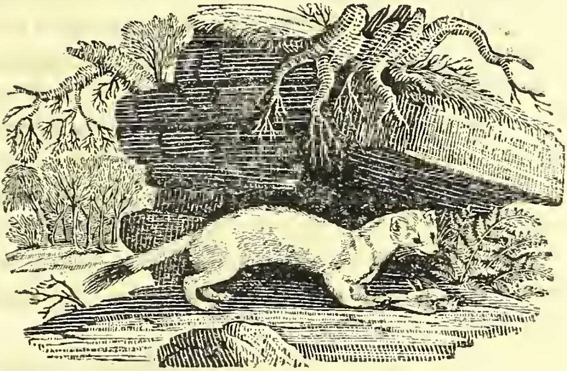
We are told, that an eagle having ſeized a Weaſel, mounted into the air with it, and was ſoon after obſerved to be in great diſtreſs. Its little enemy had extricated itſelf ſo far, as to be able to bite it ſeverely in the throat; which preſently brought the eagle to the ground, and gave the Weaſel an opportunity of eſcaping.

Notwithſtanding the wildneſs of its nature, there are not wanting inſtances to prove, that it is capable of being thoroughly tamed. M. Buffon, who aſſerted the impoſſibility of bringing the Weaſel into any degree of ſubjection, is afterwards corrected by a lady; who aſſures him, that ſhe had tried the experiment upon a young Weaſel taken in her garden; which ſoon learned to recognize and lick the hand from which it received its food, and became as familiar, careſſing, and frolicſome, as a dog or a ſquirrel. The ſame author mentions another experiment, made by a gentleman; who trained a young Weaſel ſo completely, that it followed him wherever he went. —The method of taming them is to ſtroke them gently over the back; and to threaten, and even to beat them, when they bite.

Theſe facts may ſerve to ſhew the poſſibility of rendering this animal domeſtic; and hold out a uſeful hint to us, that its ſervices might be very great in clearing ſhips, granaries, and other places, from the vermin with which they are frequently infeſted: For it is very well known, that one of theſe animals will kill more rats and mice than any Cat, being better able to purſue them into their holes and lurking-places.

The odour of the Weaſel is very ſtrong, eſpecially in the ſummer time, or when it is irritated or purſued; it is then intolerable, and may be ſmelt at ſome diſtance.

The following circumſtance, related by Buffon, will ſhew, that this animal has a natural attachment to every thing that is corrupt:—A Weaſel was taken in his neighbourhood, with three young ones, out of the carcaſe of a Wolf that had been hung on a tree by the hind feet. The Wolf was almoſt entirely putrefied; and the Weaſel had made a neſt of leaves and herbage for her young in the thorax of the putrid carcaſe.



THE STOAT.

The difference in ſhape between this animal and the Weaſel is ſo ſmall, that they have frequently been deſcribed under the ſame denomination; the ſmall Stoat being ſometimes miſtaken for a Weaſel.

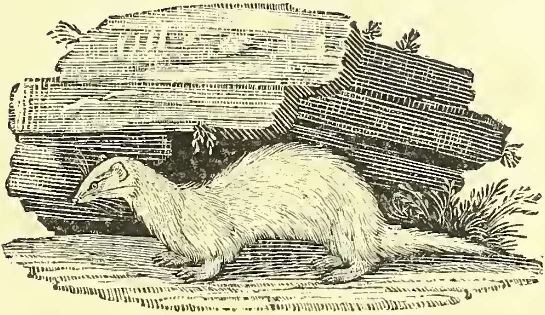
Its length is about ten inches; the tail five inches and a half, very hairy, and tipt with black at the end; the edges of the ears, and the ends of the toes, are of a yellowiſh-white: In other reſpects, it perfectly reſembles the Weaſel in colour as well as form.

In the moſt northern parts of Europe, it regularly changes its colour in winter, and becomes perfectly white; except the end of the tail, which remains invariably black. It is then called the *Ermine;* and is much ſought after for its valuable fur, which makes a conſiderable article of commerce in Norway, Lapland, Ruſſia, and other cold countries; where it is found in prodigious numbers.—It is alſo very common in Kamtſchatka and Siberia, and is taken in traps baited with fleſh. The ſkins are ſold in the country for from two to three pounds ſterling per hundred.—In Norway, they are either ſhot with blunt arrows, or taken in traps made of two flat ſtones, one being propped up with a ſtick, to which is faſtened a baited ſtring; and as ſoon as the animal begins to nibble, the ſtone falls down, and cruſhes it to death.——The Stoat is likewiſe found white in the winter time in Great-Britain, and is then erroneouſly called a *White Weaſel.* Its fur, however, among us, is of little value, having neither the thickneſs, the cloſeneſs, nor the whiteneſs, of thoſe which come from Siberia.

One of them, which we had in our poſſeſſion, had entirely aſſumed its winter robe; but with a conſiderable mixture of yellow, eſpecially on the top of the head and back.

They begin to change from brown to white in November, and reſume their ſummer veſture in March.

The natural hiſtory of this animal is much the ſame with that of the Weaſel; its food being young birds, rabbits, mice, &c; its agility the ſame; and its ſcent equally fetid.



THE FERRET

is only known to us in a kind of domeſtic ſtate.—It is originally a native of Africa; from whence, according to Strabo, it was brought into Spain; and, from its known enmity to the Rabbit, was made uſe of to reduce the numbers of them with which that kingdom abounded. It has ſince been employed for the ſame purpoſe in various parts of Europe; but as it is not able to bear the ſeverity of a cold climate, it cannot ſubſiſt without great care and ſhelter. It is uſually kept in a box, with wool; of which it makes itſelf a warm bed. It ſleeps a great part of the day; and the moment it awakes, ſeems eager for its food, which is commonly bread and milk.

It breeds twice a year. The female goes ſix weeks with young. Some of them devour their offspring as ſoon as they are brought forth; when they immediately come in ſeaſon again, and have three litters, which generally conſiſt of five or ſix, but ſometimes ſeven or eight, and even nine.

It is apt to degenerate in this country, and loſe in ſome degree its ferocity. Warreners are therefore obliged to procure an intercourſe between the female and the Foumart. The produce is a breed of a much darker colour than the Ferret, partaking more of that of the Foumart.

Its length is about fourteen inches; that of the tail five: Its noſe is ſharper than that of the Weaſel or the Foumart; its ears are round; and its eyes red and fiery: The colour of the whole body is a very pale yellow.

The Ferret is naturally ſuch an enemy to the Rabbit, that if a dead Rabbit be laid before a young Ferret, it inſtantly ſeizes upon it, although it has never ſeen one before: If a living Rabbit be preſented to it, the Ferret is ſtill more eager, ſeizes it by the neck, winds itſelf round it, and continues to ſuck its blood till it be ſatiated.—When employed in the buſineſs of the warren, it muſt be muzzled, that it may not kill the Rabbits in their holes; but only oblige them to come out, that the warrener may catch them in his nets. If the Ferret be ſuffered to go in without a muzzle, or ſhould diſengage itſelf from it whilſt in the hole, there is great danger of loſing it: For, after ſatisfying itſelf with blood, it falls aſleep; and it is then almoſt impoſſible to come at it.—The moſt uſual methods of recovering the Ferret are, by digging it out, or ſmoking the hole. If theſe do not ſucceed, it continues during the ſummer among the Rabbit holes, and lives upon the prey it finds there; but being unable to endure the cold of the winter, is ſure to periſh.

It is ſometimes employed with great ſucceſs in killing Rats, and is frequently kept in granaries and mills for that purpoſe. It is extremely vigilant in the purſuit of them, and will not ſuffer one to live where it is.—A young Ferret, after it has ſeized a Rat, will ſuffer itſelf to be dragged by it a conſiderable way before it has killed it, which it never fails to do in a ſhort time.

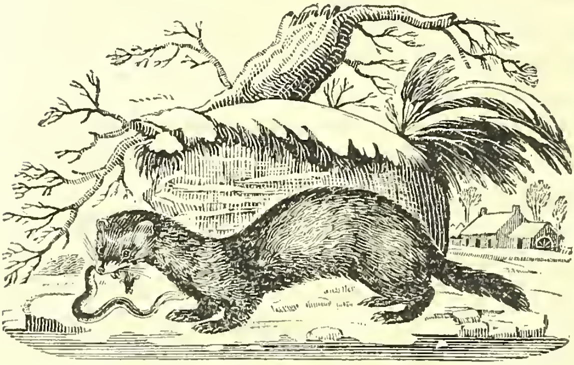
If the Ferret could be kept warm enough at ſea, it might be extremely ſerviceable in deſtroying the Rats, which frequently commit ſuch great depredations on board of ſhips, and have ſometimes been the occaſion of their total loſs.

The Ferret, though eaſily tamed, is ſoon irritated.—Its odour is fetid; its nature voracious; it is tame without attachment; and ſuch is its appetite for blood, that it has been known to attack and kill children in the cradle. —When angry, it is apt to bite; and the wound is difficult to cure.

The *Madagaſcar Weaſel*, or *Vanſire* of M. Buffon, may be referred to this ſpecies; to which its ſize and form are ſtrikingly ſimilar.——It is about fourteen inches in length: The hair is of a dark-brown colour, mixed with black: It differs from the Ferret in the number of its grinding-teeth, which amount to twelve; whereas, in the Ferret, there are but eight: The tail is longer than that of the Ferret, and better furniſhed with hair.

The ſame author mentions another animal of this ſpecies under the name of the *Nems*, which is a native of Arabia.——It reſembles the Ferret in every thing but the colour, being of a dark-brown, mixed with white; the belly is of a bright-yellow colour, without any mixture; the prevailing colour on the head and round the eyes is a clear yellow; on the noſe, cheeks, and other parts of the face where the hair is ſhort, a tincture of brown more or leſs prevails, and terminates gradually above the eyes;

the legs are covered with ſhort hair, of a deep-yellow colour; on each foot there are four toes, and a ſmall one behind; the claws are ſmall and black; the tail, which is more than double the length of that of the Ferret, is very thick at its origin, terminates in a point, and is covered with long hair, ſimilar to that on the body.



THE FOUMART,

ſo called from its offenſive ſmell, as well as to diſtinguiſh it from the Martin, to which it bears a ſtrong reſemblance. It is likewiſe called the *Polecat*, or *Fitchet*; and is the *Putois* of M. Buffon, and the *Putorius* of Ray.

Its length is about ſeventeen inches, excluſive of the tail, which is ſix inches; its eyes are ſmall, very brilliant, and when the animal is irritated or afraid, ſhine in the dark with ſingular luſtre; its ears are ſhort, broad, and tipt with white on their edges; it is white about the mouth; the reſt of the body is for the moſt part of a deep-chocolate colour; the ſides are covered with hairs of two colours; the ends being dark like the reſt of the body, and the middle of a full tawny colour.

The ſhape of the Foumart, like all others of this genus, is long and ſlender, the noſe ſharp-pointed, and the legs ſhort; the toes are long, and the claws ſharp. It is in every reſpect admirably formed for that peculiar mode of life aſſigned to it by the all-wiſe Author of Nature.

It is very active and nimble, runs very faſt, and will creep up the ſides of walls with great agility. In running, its belly ſeems to touch the ground; in preparing to jump, it arches its back, and makes its ſpring with great force.

It is very deſtructive to poultry, pigeons, and young game of all kinds. It makes great havock amongſt rabbits; and its thirſt for blood is ſo great, that it kills many more than it can eat. One or two of them will almoſt deſtroy a whole warren.

It is never ſeen abroad in the day time, unleſs forced from its hole; and is ſeldom hunted but in the winter, being at that ſeaſon eaſily found by tracing its footſteps in the ſnow.——It generally reſides in woods or thick brakes; where it burrows under ground, forming a ſhallow retreat about two yards in length, commonly ending among the roots of trees.

In the winter ſeaſon, it frequents houſes, barns, &c. feeding on poultry, eggs, and ſometimes milk.——But it has another mode of procuring ſubſiſtence, which has hitherto eſcaped the obſervation of the naturaliſt; and which, though ſingular, we can vouch for the truth of. During a ſevere ſtorm, one of theſe animals was traced in the ſnow from the ſide of a rivulet to its hole, at ſome diſtance from it: At it was obſerved to have made frequent trips, and as other marks were to be ſeen in the ſnow which could not eaſily be accounted for, it was thought a matter worthy of greater attention: Its hole was accordingly examined, the Foumart taken, and eleven fine eels were diſcovered to be the fruits of its nocturnal excurſions. The marks in the ſnow were found to have been made by the motion of the eels in the creature's mouth.

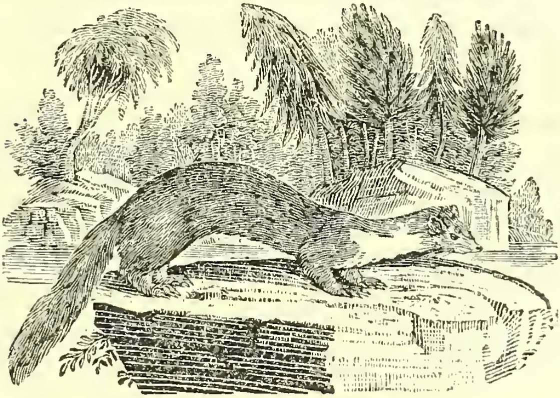
From the above curious circumſtance, we have given a repreſentation of this animal (which was drawn from the life) in poſſeſſion of this ſingular booty.—It may be matter of curious inveſtigation for ſome future naturaliſt, to enquire by what arts this wily animal finds a booty ſo apparently difficult to attain.

In attending to the inſtinctive faculties of animals, there is room for deep and diligent enquiry; and, though our progreſs is liable to many interruptions, it is a delightful taſk to follow the workings of Nature through all her intricate and curious windings: Every ſtep we gain is a ſufficient reward for our trouble, and leads us to admire the wiſdom and goodneſs of that Diſpenſation which furniſhes every creature with ſufficient and ample powers to provide for all its wants, neceſſities, and comforts.

The female Foumart brings forth in the ſummer, generally five or ſix at a time. She ſuckles them but a ſhort time, and accuſtoms them early to live upon blood and eggs.

Though the ſmell of this animal is rank and diſagreeable, even to a proverb; yet the ſkin is dreſt with the hair on, and uſed as other furs, without retaining its offenſive odour.

The Foumart is very fierce and bold. When attacked by a dog, it will defend itſelf with great ſpirit, attack in its turn, and faſten upon the noſe of its enemy with ſo keen a bite, as frequently to oblige him to deſiſt.



THE PINE-WEASEL, OR YELLOW-BREASTED MARTIN,

inhabits the North of Europe, Aſia, and America: It is likewiſe found in Great-Britain, but is not numerous there.—It lives chiefly in large foreſts; eſpecially where the pine-tree abounds, of the tops of which it is very fond.

North-America abounds with theſe animals. Prodigious numbers of their ſkins are annually imported from thence: Above thirty thouſand ſkins have been brought over from Canada in one year, and from Hudſon's Bay nearly fifteen thouſand in the ſame time.

The principal difference between the Pine-Weaſel and the Martin is in the colour. The breaſt of the former is yellow; the colour of the body much darker; and the fur, in general, greatly ſuperior in fineneſs, beauty, and value.

THE MARTIN

is much more common in this country than the Pine-Weaſel.—It lives wholly in woods, and breeds in the hollows of trees. It produces from four to ſix young ones at a time.

This ſpecies is the moſt beautiful of all the Weaſel kind. Its head is ſmall, and elegantly formed; its eyes are lively; and its motions quick and graceful.

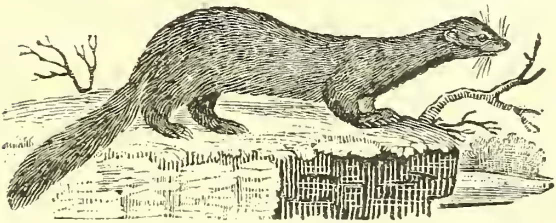
When taken young, it is eaſily tamed, and becomes extremely playful and good-humoured. Its attachment, however, is not to be depended upon. It readily takes advantage of the firſt opportunity to regain its liberty, and retire to the woods, its natural haunts.

The food of the Martin is much the ſame with other animals of its kind. It makes inceſſant war with rats, mice, and other vermin: Poultry, game, and ſmall birds, are its conſtant prey: It feeds alſo on grain, and is extremely fond of honey.

M. Buffon tells us of one of them that he had tamed, which, he remarks, drank frequently. It ſometimes ſlept two days ſucceſſively, and at other times would continue awake as long. In preparing itſelf for ſleep, it folded itſelf up in a round form, and covered its head with its tail. When awake, its motions were ſo violent, ſo conſtant, and ſo troubleſome, that it was neceſſary to keep it chained. From the flexibility of its body, it eaſily eluded its fetters; and, after returning once or twice, at laſt abſented itſelf entirely.

The Martin is about eighteen inches long; the tail ten, and full of hair, eſpecially towards the end, which is thick and buſhy; the ears are broad, rounded, and open; the body is covered with a thick fur, of a dark-brown colour; the head brown, mixed with red; the throat and breaſt are white; the belly is of the ſame colour with the back, but a little paler; the feet are broad, and covered on the under ſide with a thick fur; the claws white, large, and ſharp, well adapted for climbing trees, which in this country are its conſtant reſidence.

The ſkin and excrements have an agreeable muſky ſcent, and are entirely free from that rankneſs which is ſo diſguſting in other animals of this kind. Its fur is valuable, and in high eſtimation.



THE SABLE,

ſo highly eſteemed for its ſkin, is a native of the ſnowy regions of the North, being found chiefly in Siberia, Kamtſchatka, and ſome of the iſlands which lie between that country and Japan. A few are alſo found in Lapland.

The darkeſt furs are the moſt valuable. A ſingle ſkin, though not above four inches broad, is ſometimes valued as high as fifteen pounds. The ſable differs from all other furs in this, that the hair turns with equal eaſe to either ſide.

The Sable reſembles the Martin in form, and is about the ſame ſize.—It lives in holes in the earth, by the banks of rivers, and under the roots of trees. It makes its neſt of moſs, ſmall twigs, and graſs.

The female brings forth in the ſpring, and produces from three to five at one time.—Sometimes, like the Martin, it forms its neſt in the hollow of a tree.

It is very lively and active, and leaps with great agility from tree to tree, in purſuit of ſmall birds, woodcocks, ſquirrels, &c. It likewiſe lives upon rats, fiſhes, pine tops, and wild fruits.

It is affirmed by naturaliſts, that the Sable is not averſe to the water; and, from the fineneſs and cloſeneſs of its fur, there is great reaſon to ſuppoſe that it is much accuſtomed to that element; from which it alſo derives a part of its ſubſiſtence: And as a farther proof that this animal is in ſome degree amphibious, we are told by travellers [*], that it is very numerous in ſmall iſlands, where the hunters go in queſt of them. It is mentioned by Ariſtotle as a water animal, and is deſcribed by him under the name of *Satherius*.

The hunting of the Sables is chiefly carried on by criminals confined to the deſert regions of Siberia, or by ſoldiers ſent thither for that purpoſe, who generally remain there ſeveral years. Both are obliged to furniſh a certain quantity of furs. They ſhoot with a ſingle ball, to injure the ſkin as little as poſſible. They frequently take them in traps, or kill them with blunt arrows.—As

[*] Avril's Travels, p. 140.

an encouragement to the hunters, they are allowed to ſhare among themſelves whatever ſkins they take above the allotted number; and this, in a few years, amounts to a conſiderable premium.—The hunters form themſelves into ſmall troops, each of which is directed by a leader of their own chuſing.

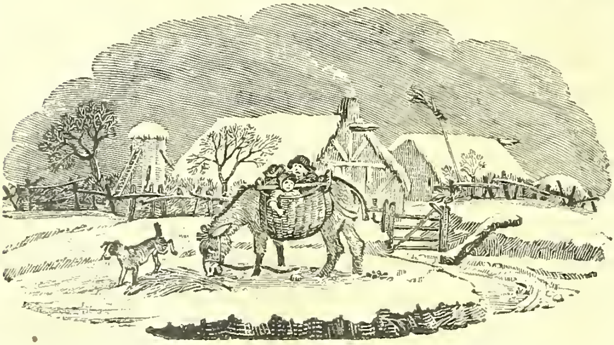
The ſeaſon of hunting is from November to February; for at that time the Sables are in the higheſt perfection: Thoſe caught at any other time of the year are full of ſhort hairs, and are ſold at inferior prices. The beſt ſkins are ſuch as have only long hair, which is always black, and of a gloſſy brightneſs. Old furs do not retain their gloſs.—Both the Ruſſians and Chineſe have a method of dying their furs; but the dyed ſables are eaſily diſcovered, having neither the ſmoothneſs nor the brightneſs of the natural hair.

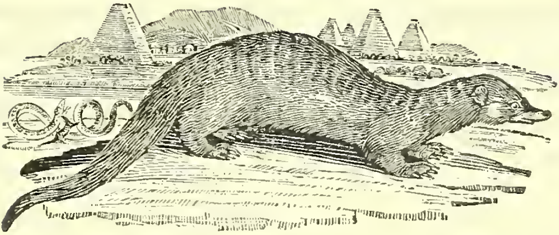
The bellies of Sables, which are ſold in pairs, are about two fingers in breadth, and are tied together in bundles of forty pieces, which are ſold at from one to two pounds ſterling. The tails are ſold by the hundred, from four to eight pounds.

There are inſtances of Sables being found of a ſnowy whiteneſs; but they are rare, and bought only as curioſities.

The hunters of theſe animals are frequently obliged to endure the utmoſt extremity of cold and hunger in the purſuit of their booty. They penetrate deep into immenſe woods, where they have no other method of finding their way back but by marking the trees as they advance: If this ſhould by any means fail them, they are inevitably loſt. They ſometimes trace the Sables on the new-fallen ſnow to their holes, place their nets at the entrance, and wait frequently two or three days before the animal comes out.—It has happened, by the failure of their proviſions, that theſe poor wretches have been reduced to the neceſſity of tying thin boards tight to their ſtomachs to prevent the cravings of appetite—Such are the hardſhips our fellow-creatures undergo to ſupply the wants of the vain and luxuriant!

An animal, ſimilar to the Sable, is mentioned by Mr Pennant under the name of the *Fiſher.*—It is found in North-America; and, by the number of ſkins imported, muſt be very numerous there, nearly ſix hundred of them having been brought in one ſeaſon from New-York and Penſylvania.—The hair on the body is moſtly black; the ſides brown; the ears are broad and round, duſky on their outſides, and edged with white; the face and ſides of the neck pale-brown, mixed with black; the feet are very broad, and covered with hair, even on their ſoles; the tail is full and buſhy; the length, from noſe to tail, is twenty-eight inches; the tail ſeventeen.





THE ICHNEUMON.

This animal, in Egypt, is domeſtic, like the Cat; and is retained by the natives for the ſame uſeful purpoſes of clearing their houſes of rats and mice.——With all the ſtrength and agility of the Cat, it has a more general appetite for carnage. It attacks, without dread, the moſt deadly ſerpents; and preys on every noxious reptile of the torrid zone, which it ſeizes and kills with great avidity.—It is ſaid, that when it is wounded by a ſerpent, and begins to feel the effect of the poiſon, it immediately has recourſe to a certain root, which the Indians call after its name, and aſſert that it is an antidote for the bite of any venomous reptile.

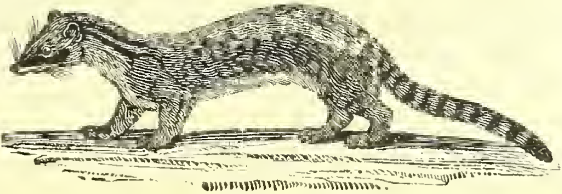
The Ichneumon is the moſt formidable enemy of the crocodile: It deſtroys its eggs, which it digs out of the ſand, where they are laid to hatch by the heat of the ſun; and kills great numbers of young crocodiles ſoon after their production, before they are able to reach the water. It was for this reaſon that the ancient Egyptians worſhipped this animal, and ranked the Ichneumon among thoſe deities that were moſt propitious to them.

In its domeſtic ſtate, it is perfectly tame and gentle. M. d'Obſonville ſpeaks of one which he reared from a young one. It became tamer than a Cat, was obedient to the call of its maſter, and followed him wherever he went. One day he brought a ſmall water-ſerpent alive, being deſirous to know how far its inſtinct would carry it againſt a being with whom it was hitherto entirely unacquainted. Its firſt emotion ſeemed to be aſtoniſhment mixed with anger: Its hair became erect: In an inſtant, it ſlipped behind the reptile; and, with remarkable ſwiftneſs and agility, leaped upon its head, ſeized it, and cruſhed it with its teeth. This firſt eſſay ſeemed to have awakened in it its natural appetite for blood, which till then had given way to the gentleneſs of its education: It no longer ſuffered the poultry, among which it was brought up, to paſs unregarded; but took the firſt opportunity, when it was alone, to ſtrangle them: It eat a part of their fleſh, and drank only the blood of others.

Theſe animals are numerous in all the ſouthern regions of Aſia, from Egypt to the iſland of Java: They are alſo found in Africa, in the country about the Cape of Good Hope.—They frequent the banks of rivers, are fond of fiſh, are ſaid to take the water like an Otter, and will continue in it a conſiderable time without riſing to take breath.

The Ichneumon varies in ſize. The domeſtic kind is generally larger than thoſe that are wild, and its colours more variegated. It is in general about the ſize of a common Cat; ſomewhat longer in the body, and ſhorter in the legs. Its fur contains tints of white, brown, fawn-colour, and a dirty ſilver-grey, which altogether form a mixture very agreeable to the eye. Its form is like that of the Polecat. Its eyes are ſmall, but inflamed, and ſparkle with a ſingular vivacity; its noſe is long and ſlender; its ears ſmall, rounded, and almoſt naked; its tail is very thick at the baſe, and tapers to a point; underneath the tail is an orifice, from which a moſt fetid humour is ſecreted; its claws are long.——It darts upon its prey like an arrow, and ſeizes it with inevitable certainty.

It has a ſmall ſoft voice, ſomewhat like a murmur; and, unleſs ſtruck or irritated, never exerts it. When it ſleeps, it folds itſelf up like a ball, and is not eaſily awaked. It frequently ſits up like a Squirrel, and feeds itſelf with its fore feet; catches any thing that is thrown to it; and will often feign itſelf dead till its prey come within its reach.

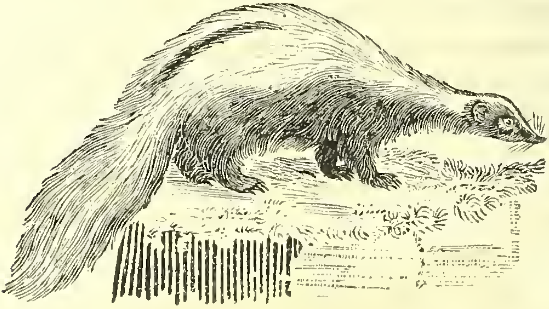


THE FOSSANE

is rather ſmaller than the Martin. Its body is ſlender, and covered with hair of an aſh colour, mixed with tawny; the ſides of the face are black; at the hind part of the head there are four black lines, extending from thence toward the ſhoulders; the tail is long, and annulated with black; its eye is full, round, and black, which gives it a wild and miſchievous aſpect.

It inhabits the iſland of Madagaſcar, Guinea, Cochinchina, and the Philippine Iſles. It feeds on fleſh and fruits, but prefers the latter, and is peculiarly fond of bananas. It is very fierce, and not eaſily tamed.

In Guinea, it is called the *Berbe;* and, by Europeans, the *Wine-bibber*, being very greedy of palm-wine.—When young, its fleſh is reckoned very good to eat.



THE SKUNK,

which is called the *Chinche* by the natives of Brazil, is about the ſize of a common Cat. Its noſe is long and ſlender, and extends a conſiderable way beyond the lower jaw; its ears are large, ſhort, and rounded; a white ſtripe extends from the noſe over the forehead and along the back, where it is interſected with a ſmall line of black, commencing at the tail, and extending upwards along the middle of the back; its belly and legs are black; its hair is long, eſpecially on the tail, which is thick and buſhy.

It inhabits Peru, Brazil, and other parts of South-America; and is likewiſe found in North-America, as far as Canada.

It is remarkable for a moſt intolerable, ſuffocating, fetid vapour; which it emits from behind, when attacked, purſued, or frightened. The ſtench of this effluvia is inſupportable, and is the creature's beſt means of defence.

There are three or four varieties, mentioned by M. Buffon under the name of the *Stinking Polecats;* all of which poſſeſs this wonderful faculty of annoying their enemies from the ſame quarter.

Some turn their tail to their purſuers, and emit a moſt horrible ſtench, which keeps both dogs and men at a conſiderable diſtance. Others eject their urine to the diſtance of ſeveral feet; and it is of ſo virulent a quality, as almoſt to occaſion blindneſs, if any of it ſhould happen to fall into the eyes. Clothes infected with it, retain the ſmell for many days: No waſhing can make them ſweet; but they muſt be even buried in freſh ſoil before they can be thoroughly cleanſed. Dogs that are not properly bred, turn back as ſoon as they perceive the ſmell: Thoſe that have been accuſtomed to it, will kill the animal; but are obliged to relieve themſelves by thruſting their noſes into the ground.

The *Stifling*, or *Squaſh*, which is the ſecond variety, is nearly of the ſame ſize with the Skunk. Its hair is long, and of a deep-brown colour. It lives in holes and clefts of rocks, where the female brings forth her young. It is a native of Mexico; and feeds on beetles, worms, and ſmall birds. It deſtroys poultry, of which it only eats the brains.——When afraid or irritated, it voids the ſame offenſive kind of odour, which no creature dares venture to approach. Profeſſor Kalm was in danger of being ſuffocated by one that was purſued into a houſe where he ſlept; and it affected the cattle ſo much, that they bellowed through pain. Another, which was killed by a maid-ſervant in a cellar, ſo affected her with its ſtench, that ſhe lay ill for ſeveral days: All the proviſions that were in the place were ſo tainted by the ſmell, as to be utterly unfit for uſe.

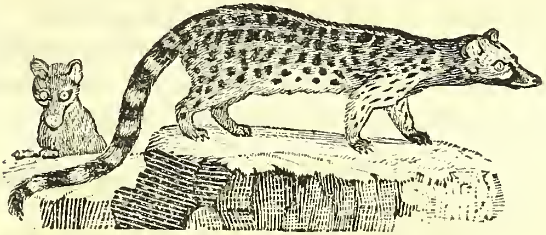
Another variety is called the *Conepate;* and is, perhaps, no more than the female of the laſt-mentioned animal. It is ſomewhat ſmaller, and differs chiefly from the Squaſh in being marked with five parallel white lines, which run along its back and ſides from head to tail.

It is a native of North-America.——When attacked, it briſtles up its hair, throws itſelf into a round form, and emits an odour which no creature can ſupport.

The laſt of this peſtiferous family which we ſhall mention is the *Zorilla.*

This animal is a native of New-Spain, where it is called the *Mariputa.* It is found on the banks of the river Oronoque; and, although extremely beautiful, it is at the ſame time the moſt offenſive of all creatures. Its body is beautifully marked with white ſtripes upon a black ground, running from the head to the middle of the back; from whence they are croſſed with other white bands, which cover the lower part of the back and flanks: Its tail is long and buſhy, black as far as the middle, and white to its extremity. It is an active and miſchievous little animal. Its ſtench is ſaid to extend to a conſiderable diſtance; and is ſo powerful, as to overcome even the Panther of America, which is one of its greateſt enemies.

Notwithſtanding this offenſive quality in theſe animals, they are frequently tamed, and will follow their maſter. They do not emit their odour, unleſs when beaten or irritated. They are frequently killed by the native Indians, who immediately cut away the noxious glands; thereby preventing the fleſh, which is good eating, from being infected. Its taſte is ſaid nearly to reſemble the flavour of a young pig. The ſavage Indians make purſes of their ſkins.



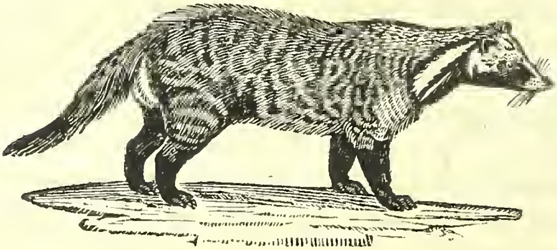
The GENET

is as much diſtinguiſhed for the agreeable perfume which it yields, as thoſe we have juſt deſcribed are for the rankeſt and moſt diſagreeable odour in nature.

The body of the Genet is longer than that of the Martin; its head is long and ſlender, with a ſharp muzzle; its ears are a little pointed; its hair ſoft, ſmooth, and ſhining; of a tawny-red colour, ſpotted with black; along the ridge of the back there is a kind of mane of long hair, which forms a black line from head to tail; the ſpots on the ſides are round and diſtinct, thoſe on the back almoſt cloſe; its tail is long, and marked with ſeven or eight rings of black. From an orifice beneath its tail, it yields a kind of perfume, which ſmells faintly of muſk.

It is found in Turkey, Syria, and Spain.—We are told by Belon, that he ſaw Genets in the houſes at Conſtantinople as tame as Cats; and that they were uſeful to the inhabitants in deſtroying rats, mice, and other vermin.

It is a moſt beautiful, cleanly, and induſtrious animal, and very active in purſuing its prey. Its nature is mild and gentle, its colours beautifully variegated, and its fur valuable. Upon the whole, it ſeems to be one of thoſe animals that, with proper care and attention, might become a uſeful addition to our ſtock of domeſtic quadrupeds.



THE CIVET

is larger than the Genet, and yields a perfume in much greater quantities, and of a ſtronger quality.

Though originally a native of the warm climates of Africa or Aſia, it can live in temperate, and even in cold countries; but it muſt be fed with nouriſhing diet, and carefully defended againſt the ſeverities of the weather.

Numbers of them are kept in Holland, for the purpoſe of collecting this valuable perfume. The civet procured at Amſterdam is more eſteemed than that which comes from the Levant or India, being leſs adulterated.—To collect this perfume, the Civet is put into a cage, ſo narrow, that it cannot turn itſelf: The cage is opened at one end, and the animal drawn backwards by the tail, and ſecurely held by its hind legs: A ſmall ſpoon is then introduced into the pouch which contains the perfume, with which it is carefully ſcraped, and the matter put into a veſſel properly ſecured. This operation is performed two or three times a week.

The quantity of odorous humour depends much on the quality of the nouriſhment, and the appetite of the animal, which always produces more in proportion to the goodneſs of its food. Boiled fleſh, eggs, rice, ſmall animals, birds, and particularly fiſh, are the kinds of food the Civet moſtly delights in; and theſe ought to be varied, ſo as to excite its appetite, and preſerve its health. It requires very little water; and, though it drinks ſeldom, it diſcharges its urine frequently. It is ſomewhat remarkable, that in this operation the male is not to be diſtinguiſhed from the female.—From this circumſtance, it has been ſuppoſed, that this was the *Hyena* of the ancients; and it is certain, that moſt of the fables related concerning that monſter are in a certain way applicable to the Civet.

The ancients were well acquainted with the pomatum of the Civet, and aſcribed to it certain powers of exciting love; for which purpoſe it ſtill conſtitutes one of the luxuries of the Eaſt.

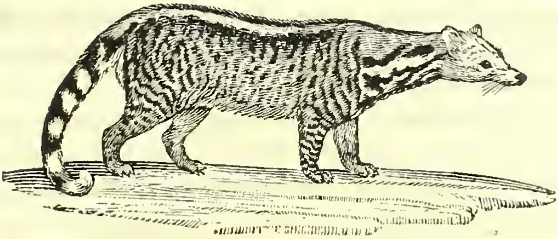
What has been fabulouſly related concerning the uncertainty of ſex in the Hyena, applies much more ſtrongly to the Civet; for in the male nothing appears externally but three apertures, ſo perfectly ſimilar to thoſe of the female, that it is impoſſible to diſtinguiſh the ſex otherwiſe than by diſſection.

The perfume of this animal is ſo ſtrong, that it infects every part of its body: The hair and the ſkin are ſo thoroughly penetrated with it, that they retain it long after being taken from the body. If a perſon be ſhut up in the ſame apartment, it is almoſt inſupportable; and, when heated with rage, it becomes ſtill more pungent.

The Civet is naturally ſavage, and ſomewhat ferocious; yet it is eaſily tamed, ſo as to be handled without danger.

The teeth are ſtrong and ſharp; but its claws are weak. It is very active and nimble, leaps like a Cat, and runs with great ſwiftneſs. It lives by hunting; ſurprizes ſmall animals and birds; and, like the Weaſel, will ſometimes ſteal into the yard, and carry off poultry. —Its eyes ſhine in the dark; and it is probable, that it can ſee well enough to purſue its prey during the night, as it is known to be moſt active at that time.

The Civet is very prolific in its native climate; but, though it lives and produces its perfume in temperate regions, it is never known to breed there.——Its voice is ſtronger than that of the Cat, and has ſome reſemblance to the cry of an enraged Dog.



THE ZIBET

is ſo ſimilar to the Civet, as to be conſidered by ſome authors as only a variety of that animal; and it muſt be allowed, that they have many eſſential relations, both in their external and internal ſtructure; but they differ from each other by ſuch diſtinguiſhing characteriſtics, as entitle them to be regarded as two diſtinct ſpecies. The ears of the Zibet are larger and more erect; and its muzzle is thinner and flatter: Its body is longer than that of the Civet; and its tail, which is longer, is marked with annular ſpots, like that of the Genet: It has no mane nor long hair on the neck and ſpine; and its hair is ſhorter and ſofter.

The perfume of the Zibet is peculiarly violent and piercing, beyond that of either the Civet or the Genet.—This odorous liquor is found in a fiſſure near the organs of generation. It is a thick humour, of the conſiſtence of pomatum; and, though very ſtrong, it is agreeable even as it iſſues from the body of the animal.—This matter of the Zibet muſt not be confounded with muſk, which is a ſanguineous humour, derived from a ſpecies of the Roe-buck, or Goat without Horns*; and has nothing in common with the Zibet, but its ſtrong perfume.

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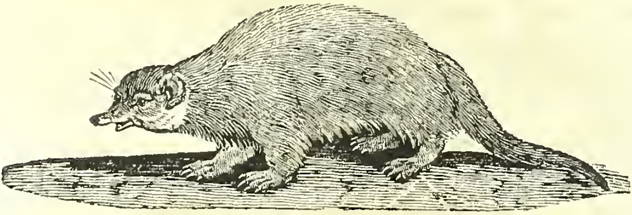
* See page 103.



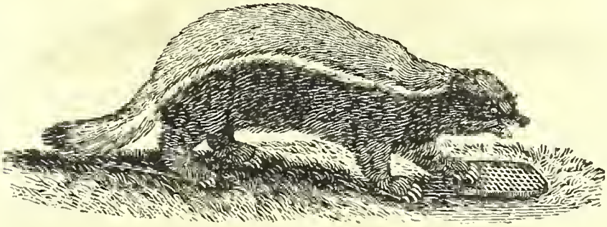
THE SURICATE, OR FOUR-TOED WEASEL,

is rather leſs than the Rabbit; and pretty much reſembles the Ichneumon, both in ſize and in the colour of its hair, only it is rougher, and its tail is not quite ſo long. Its upper jaw is much longer than the lower, and very pliant and moveable. It has only four toes on each foot.

One of them, in the poſſeſſion of M. de Seve, was obſerved ſometimes to walk on its hind legs, and frequently to ſit upright, with its fore feet hanging down on its breaſt.

The Suricate is carnivorous, and preys on ſmall animals. It is fond of fiſh, and ſtill more ſo of eggs. Like the Squirrel, it makes uſe of its fore paws to convey its victuals to its mouth. In drinking, it laps like a Dog; but will not drink water, except when it is warm.

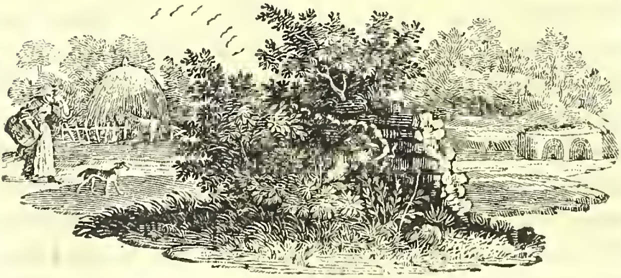
That kept by M. de Seve, was extremely playful and familiar, knew its own name, and would return at a call. What was remarkable, it ſeemed to have an averſion to particular perſons, whom it would always bite on their approaching it: Some people were ſo diſagreeable to it, that even when reſtrained, it would make uſe of ſeveral artifices to come near enough to bite them; and when it could not lay hold of their legs, would fly at their ſhoes or petticoats. When diſcontented, it made a noiſe like the barking of a whelp; and when pleaſed or careſſed, would utter a ſound like the ſhaking of a rattle.

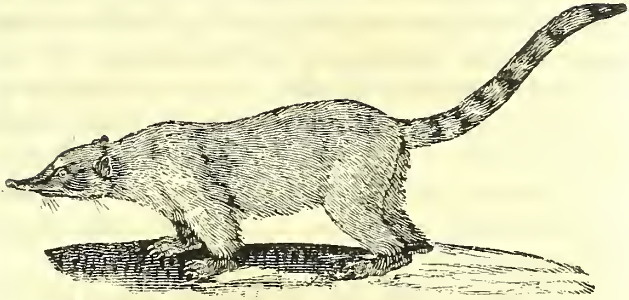


THE RATEL,

deſcribed by Mr Pennant under the name of the *Fizzler*, is a native of the Cape of Good Hope.——It lives chiefly upon honey, and is endowed with a wonderful faculty of diſcovering the ſecret retreats where the bees depoſit their ſtores. About ſun-ſet, the Ratel is particularly attentive in watching the motions of theſe induſtrious inſects; and, having obſerved their route, it follows with great care the direction in which they fly. It is frequently aſſiſted in diſcovering its delicious booty by a bird called the Honey-Guide, *(cuculus indicator)* which is extremely fond both of honey and the eggs of bees; and, in the purſuit of its food, excites the attention of the Ratel by a loud grating cry of *cherr, cherr, cherr;* at the ſame time flying ſlowly on towards the place where the ſwarm of bees have taken up their abode. The Ratel follows the ſound with great attention; and having plundered the neſt, leaves ſufficient behind it as a reward for the ſervices of its faithful guide. The Ratel is well adapted to this purpoſe, as the toughneſs and thickneſs of its ſkin effectualy defends it from the ſtings of the bees. On this account, it is not eaſily killed; for its ſkin is ſo looſely attached to its body, that when ſeized by a hound it gives way, and the animal has an opportunity of turning round, and biting its aſſailant, which it frequently does ſo ſeverely, as to oblige him to deſiſt.

The Ratel, according to Mr Pennant, is two feet long from the noſe to the tail, which is eight inches; its legs are ſhort; on each foot it has four toes, armed with long claws; thoſe on the fore feet are above an inch long, and very ſharp; its tongue is rough; it has no ear-laps; the orifice of the ear is wide, and ſurrounded by a callous rim; a broad ſtripe, of an aſh colour, extends along the back from the forehead to the tail, which is ſeparated from the black hair on the ſides and belly by a light-grey liſt running from behind each ear to the tail.——It burrows in holes under ground, is ſaid to be very fetid, and is called the *Stinking Badger* by M. de la Caille.





THE COATI, OR BRAZILIAN WEASEL,

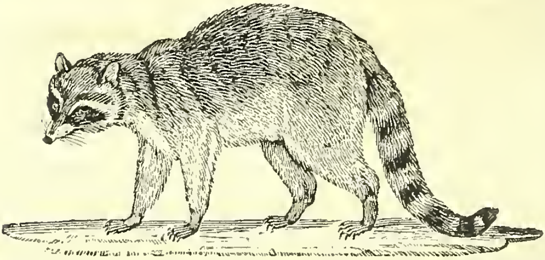
has ſome reſemblance to the Bear, in the length of its hind legs, in the form of its feet, in the buſhineſs of its hair, and in the ſtructure of its paws. It is ſmall. Its tail is long, and variegated with different colours; its upper jaw is much longer than the lower, and very pliant; its ears are rounded; its hair is ſmooth, ſoft, and gloſſy, of a bright-bay colour; and its breaſt is whitiſh.

Linnæus deſcribes one of them, which he kept a conſiderable time, and in vain attempted to bring into ſubjection. It was very obſtinate and capricious. It killed the poultry, tore off their heads, and ſucked their blood. It defended itſelf with great force whenever any perſon attempted to lay hold of it contrary to its inclination; and it ſtuck faſt to the legs of thoſe with whom it was familiar, when it wanted to ranſack their pockets, and carry off any thing that it found in them. It had an extreme averſion to hog's briſtles; and the ſmalleſt bruſh made it deſiſt.—Its mode of living was very ſingular: It ſlept from midnight till noon, kept awake the reſt of the day, and uniformly walked about from ſix in the evening till midnight, without the leaſt regard to the weather.

This is probably the time aſſigned by Nature to this ſpecies of animals for procuring their food, which conſiſts chiefly of young birds, eggs, and ſmall animals.

It inhabits Brazil and Guiana, runs up trees very nimbly, eats like a Dog, and holds its food between its fore legs like the Bear.

The Coati ſtands with eaſe on its hind feet.—It is ſaid to gnaw its own tail, which it generally carrics erect, and ſweeps it about from ſide to ſide.



THE RACOON

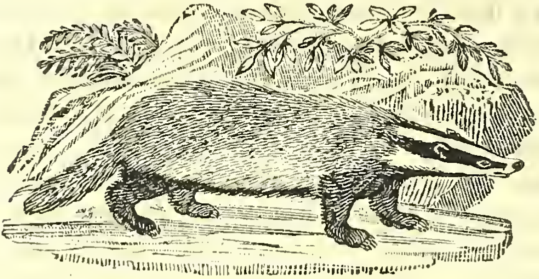
is very common in the warm regions of America. It is found alſo in the mountains of Jamaica; from whence great numbers of them frequently deſcend into the plantations, and make great havock among the ſugar-canes, of which they are particularly fond. The planters conſider theſe animals as their greateſt enemies, as they frequently do infinite miſchief in one night's excurſion: They have contrived various methods of deſtroying them; yet ſtill they propagate in ſuch numbers, that neither traps nor fire-arms can repel them.

The Racoon is ſomewhat leſs than the Badger: Its head reſembles that of a Fox; but its ears are round, and much ſhorter; and its upper jaw very pointed, and longer than the lower: Its eyes, which are large, are ſurrounded with two broad patches of black; its body is thick and ſhort, covered with long hair, black at the points, and grey underneath; its tail is long and buſhy, and marked with alternate rings of black and white; its feet and toes are black.

The Racoon is very active and nimble. Its claws, which are extremely ſharp, enable it to climb trees with great facility. It moves forward chiefly by bounding; and, though it proceeds in an oblique direction, runs very ſwiftly.

When tamed, it is good-natured and ſportive; but is almoſt conſtantly in motion, and as unlucky and inquiſitive as a Monkey, examining every thing with its paws, which it makes uſe of as hands to lay hold of any thing that is given it, and to carry its meat to its mouth. It ſits up to eat, is extremely fond of ſweet things and ſtrong liquors, with which it will get exceſſively drunk. It has all the cunning of the Fox, is very deſtructive to poultry; but will eat all ſorts of fruits, grain, and roots. It has a peculiar method of dipping every thing in water it intends to eat, and will ſeldom taſte bread till it be well ſoaked. It opens oyſters with aſtoniſhing dexterity, ſeparates the ſhells, and leaves not a veſtige of the fiſh. It does this without looking at the oyſter; but places it under its hind paws, and with its fore feet ſearches for the weakeſt part, where it fixes its claws, forces it open, and ſnatches out the fiſh. It likewiſe devours all kinds of inſects; delights in hunting ſpiders; and when at liberty in a garden, will eat graſshoppers, ſnails, worms, &c. It is very cleanly, and always retires to obey the calls of Nature. It is familiar, and even careſſing, leaps upon thoſe it is fond of, plays ſportively, and moves about with great agility.

This animal is hunted for its ſkin, which is next in value to that of the Beaver for making hats.



THE BADGER.

Although Nature has furniſhed this animal with formidable weapons of offence, and has beſides given it ſtrength ſufficient to uſe them with great effect, it is, notwithſtanding, very harmleſs and inoffenſive; and, unleſs attacked, employs them only for its ſupport.

The Badger retires to the moſt ſecret receſſes; where it digs its hole, and forms its habitation under ground.—Its food conſiſts chiefly of roots, fruits, graſs, inſects, and frogs. It is charged with deſtroying lambs and rabbits; but there ſeems to be no other reaſon to conſider it as a beaſt of prey, than the analogy between its teeth and thoſe of carnivorous animals.

Few creatures defend themſelves better, or bite with greater keenneſs, than the Badger. On that account it is frequently baited with Dogs trained for that purpoſe. This inhuman diverſion is chiefly confined to the idle and the vicious, who take a cruel pleaſure in ſeeing this harmleſs animal ſurrounded by its enemies, and defending itſelf from their attacks, which it does with aſtoniſhing agility and ſucceſs. Its motions are ſo quick, that a Dog is frequently deſperately wounded in the firſt moment of aſſault, and obliged to fly. The thickneſs of the Badger's ſkin, and the length and coarſeneſs of its hair, are an excellent defence againſt the bites of the Dogs: Its ſkin is ſo looſe, as to reſiſt the impreſſions of their teeth, and give the animal an opportunity of turning itſelf round, and wounding its adverſaries in their tendereſt parts. In this manner this ſingular creature is able to reſiſt repeated attacks both of men and dogs, from all quarters; till, being overpowered with numbers, and enfeebled by many deſperate wounds, it is at laſt obliged to ſubmit.

The Badger is an indolent animal, and ſleeps much. It confines itſelf to its hole during the whole day, and feeds only in the night. It is ſo cleanly, as never to defile its habitation with its ordure. It breeds only once in a year, and brings forth four or five at a time.

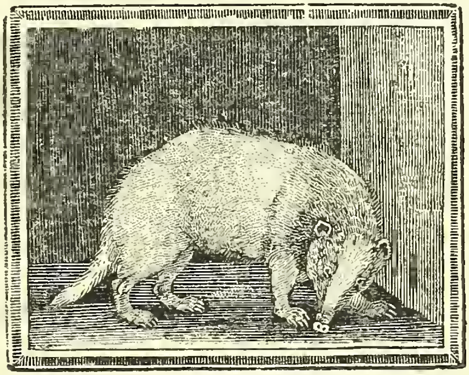
It is not known to exiſt in warm countries. It is an original native of the temperate climates of Europe; and is found, without any variety, in Spain, France, Italy, Germany, Britain, Poland, and Sweden.

The uſual length of the Badger is ſomewhat above two feet, excluſive of the tail, which is about ſix inches long; its eyes are ſmall, and are placed in a black ſtripe, which begins behind the ears, and runs tapering toward the noſe; the throat and legs are black; the back, ſides, and tail, are of a dirty-grey, mixed with black; the legs and feet are very ſhort, ſtrong, and thick; each foot conſiſts of five toes; thoſe on the fore feet are armed with ſtrong claws, well adapted for digging its ſubterranean habitations.

In walking, the Badger treads on its whole heel, like the Bear; which brings its belly very near the ground.

Immediately below the tail, between that and the anus, there is a narrow tranſverſe orifice, from whence a white ſubſtance, of a very fetid ſmell, conſtantly exudes.

The ſkin, when dreſſed with the hair on, is uſed for piſtol furniture.—Its fleſh is eaten: The hind quarters are ſometimes made into hams, which, when cured, are not inferior in goodneſs to the beſt bacon.—The hairs are made into bruſhes, which are uſed by painters to ſoften and harmonize their ſhades.

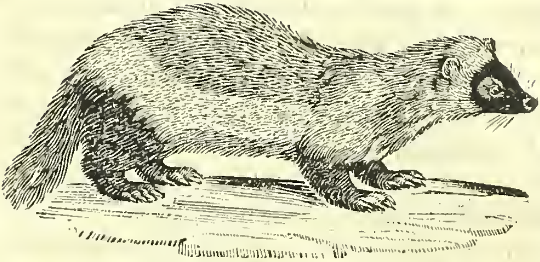


THE SAND-BEAR.

We have given the figure of this animal, drawn from one kept in the Tower; of which we have not been able to obtain any further deſcription, than its being ſomewhat leſs than the Badger, almoſt without hair, extremely ſenſible of cold, and burrows in the ground. From theſe circumſtances, as well as from the ſtriking ſimilarity of its figure to that of the Badger, we are inclined to think it is a variety of that animal, mentioned by naturaliſts under the name of the *Sow-Badger.*

Its colour is a yellowiſh-white: Its eyes are ſmall; and its head thicker than that of the common Badger: Its legs are ſhort; and on each foot there are four toes, armed with ſharp white claws.

M. Briſſon deſcribes a white Badger, from New-York, ſo ſimilar to this, that we ſuſpect it to be the ſame ſpecies.



The WOLVERENE, or GLUTTON.

This voracious animal is found in all the countries bordering on the Northern Ocean, both in Europe and Aſia: It is likewiſe common in Canada, the country about Hudſon's Bay, and other parts of North-America; where it is known by the name of the *Carcajou*.

It has been variouſly deſcribed by naturaliſts.—We have ſelected the account given by M. Buffon, which was taken from a living one in his poſſeſſion. Its length, from the noſe to the inſertion of the tail, was two feet two inches; the tail eight inches long; the length of the fore legs was eleven inches, and the hind ones twelve; it had five toes on each foot, armed with long ſharp claws; the middle claw of the fore foot was one inch and a half long; the muzzle, as far as the eye-brows, was black; its eyes were ſmall and black, and its ears ſhort; its breaſt and under jaw were ſpotted with white; the back, legs, belly, and tail, were black.—During its confinement, it did not diſcover ſymptoms of great ferocity. It eat voraciouſly; and after a full meal, covered itſelf in its cage with ſtraw. It eat no bread; but would devour more than four pounds of fleſh every day, which it ſwallowed greedily, almoſt without chewing.

In a ſtate of liberty, it is ſaid to lead a life of continual rapine. It lurks in the branches of trees, in order to ſurprize Deer and other animals that paſs under them. It waits with great patience the arrival of its prey, and darts from its hiding-place with unerring certainty. In this manner it indiſcriminately ſurprizes the Horſe, the Elk, the Stag, or the Rein-deer; and fixes itſelf between their ſhoulders with its teeth and claws.

The wild Rein-deer, which are numerous both in Lapland and North-America, frequently fall victims to the Glutton. When ſeized by this blood-thirſty animal, it is in vain that the wounded Deer endeavours to diſengage itſelf from its enemy by ruſtling among the branches of the trees: No force can oblige it to quit its hold: It maintains its poſition, and continues to ſuck the blood of the flying animal till it falls down exhauſted with pain and fatigue. It then devours the carcaſe with inſatiable voracity, and gorges itſelf with the fleſh till it is almoſt in danger of burſting.

In Kamtſchatka, the Glutton makes uſe of a ſingular ſtratagem for killing the Fallow-deer. It climbs up a tree, taking with it a quantity of that ſpecies of moſs of which the Deer is very fond. When one of them approaches the tree, the Glutton throws down the moſs; and if the Deer ſtop to eat it, the Glutton darts upon its back, and fixing itſelf firmly between its horns, tears out its eyes, and by that means ſecures its prey. It then divides the fleſh of the Deer into a number of portions, which it conceals in the earth to ſerve for future proviſions.

The motions of the Glutton are ſlow. There are few quadrupeds that cannot eſcape from it, except the Beaver, which it frequently purſues and overtakes.——In America, it is called the *Beaver-eater*.—It ſometimes lies in wait, and ſurprizes thoſe animals coming out of their burrow; or breaks into their habitation, and kills great numbers of them.

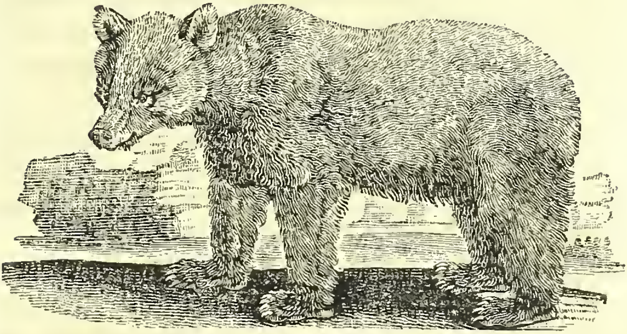
The Glutton often defeats the labours of the huntſmen, by ſtealing away the Sables and other animals that have been caught in their traps; and it is ſometimes taken in the ſnares laid for them.

When attacked, it makes a ſtrong reſiſtance. It will tear the ſtock from the gun with its teeth, or break the trap in pieces in which it is caught.—Notwithſtanding its fierceneſs, it is capable of being tamed, and of learning ſeveral entertaining tricks.

It is hunted only for its ſkin, which is very valuable, of a moſt beautiful gloſſy black, which ſhines with a peculiar luſtre, and reflects the light like damaſk ſilk.

The ſkins are ſold in Siberia at five or ſix ſhillings each, at Jakutſk at twelve, and ſtill dearer in Kamtſchatka. There the women dreſs their hair with its white paws, which they eſteem a great ornament.

The furs of this animal, from the North of Europe and Aſia, are infinitely finer, blacker, and more gloſſy, than thoſe of the American kind.



THE BROWN BEAR.

THERE are two principal varieties of the Bear,—the *brown* and the *black*. The former is found in almoſt every climate, the black Bear chiefly in the foreſts of the northern regions of Europe and America.

The brown Bear is ſometimes carnivorous; but its general food is roots, fruits, and vegetables.

It is a ſavage and ſolitary animal, lives in deſert and unfrequented places, and chuſes its den in the moſt gloomy and retired parts of the foreſt, or in the moſt dangerous and inacceſſible precipices of unfrequented mountains.—It retires alone to its den about the end of autumn, (at which time it is exceedingly fat) and lives for ſeveral weeks in a ſtate of total inactivity and abſtinence from food.—During this time, the female brings forth her young, and ſuckles them. She chuſes her retreat for that purpoſe in the moſt retired places, apart from the male, leſt he ſhould devour them. She makes a warm bed for her young, and attends them with unremitting care during four months, and in all that time ſcarcely allows herſelf any nouriſhment. She brings forth two, and ſometimes three young at a time.—The cubs are round and ſhapeleſs, with pointed muzzles; but they are not licked into form by the female, as Pliny and other ancient naturaliſts ſuppoſed. At firſt they do not exceed eight inches in length: They are blind during the firſt four weeks, are of a pale-yellow colour, and have ſcarcely any reſemblance of the creature when arrived at maturity.—The time of geſtation in theſe animals is about ſix months; and they bring forth in the beginning of January.

In the ſpring, the old Bears, attended by their young, come out from their retreats, lean, and almoſt famiſhed by their long confinement. They then ranſack every quarter in ſearch of food. They frequently climb trees, and devour the fruit in great quantities; particularly the date-plumb tree, of which they are exceedingly fond. They aſcend theſe trees with ſurprizing agility, keep themſelves firm on the branches with one paw, and with the other collect the fruit.

The Bear is remarkably fond of honey, which it will encounter great difficulties to obtain, and ſeeks for with great cunning and avidity.

It enjoys, in a ſuperior degree, the ſenſes of hearing, ſmelling, and touching.—Its ears are ſhort and rounded; and its eyes ſmall, but lively and penetrating, and defended by a nictating membrane: From the peculiar formation of the internal parts of its noſe, its ſenſe of ſmelling is exceedingly exquiſite: The legs and thighs are ſtrong and muſcular: It has five toes on each foot, and uſes its fore foot as a hand, although the toes are not ſeparated as in moſt animals that do ſo; the largeſt finger is on the outſide.

The voice of the Bear is a deep and ſurly kind of growl, which it frequently exerts without the leaſt cauſe. —-It is very eaſily irritated; and at that time its reſentment is furious, and often capriciouſly exerted.

When tamed, it appears mild and obedient to its maſter; but it is not to be truſted without the utmoſt caution.—It may be taught to walk upright, to dance, to lay hold of a pole with its paws, and perform various tricks to entertain the multitude, who are highly pleaſed to ſee the aukward meaſures of this rugged creature, which it ſeems to ſuit to the ſound of an inſtrument, or to the voice of its leader. But to give the Bear this kind of education, it muſt be taken when young, and accuſtomed early to reſtraint and diſcipline: An old Bear will ſuffer neither, without diſcovering the moſt furious reſentment; neither the voice nor the menaces of his keeper have any effect upon him; he equally growls at the hand that is held out to feed, as at that which is raiſed to correct him.

The exceſſive cruelties practiſed upon this poor animal in teaching it to walk erect, and regulate its motions to the ſound of the flagelet, are ſuch as make ſenſibility ſhudder. Its eyes are put out; and an iron ring being put through the cartilage of the noſe to lead it by, it is kept from food, and beaten, till it yield obedience to the will of its ſavage tutors. Some of them are taught to perform by ſetting their feet upon hot iron plates, and then playing to them whilſt in this uneaſy ſituation.—It is truly ſhocking to every feeling mind to reflect, that ſuch cruelties ſhould be exerciſed upon any part of the brute creation by our fellow-men. That they ſhould be rewarded by numbers of unthinking people, who crowd around them to ſee the animal's rude attempts to imitate human actions, is not to be wondered at: But it is much to be wiſhed, that the timely interference of the magiſtrate would prevent every exhibition of this kind, that, in England at leaſt, we might not be reproached with tolerating practices ſo diſgraceful to humanity.

One of theſe animals, preſented to the prince of Wales a few years ago, was kept in the Tower. By the careleſſneſs of the ſervant, the door of his den was left open; and the keeper's wife happening to go acroſs the court at the ſame time, the animal flew out, ſeized the woman, threw her down, and faſtened upon her neck, which he bit; and, without offering any further violence, lay upon her, ſucking the blood out of the wound. Reſiſtance was in vain, as it only ſerved to irritate the brute; and ſhe muſt inevitably have periſhed, had not her huſband luckily diſcovered her ſituation. By a ſudden blow, he obliged the Bear to quit his hold, and retire to his den, which he did with great reluctance, and not without making a ſecond attempt to come at the woman, who was almoſt dead through fear and loſs of blood. It is ſomewhat remarkable, that whenever it happened to ſee her afterwards, it growled, and made moſt violent ſtruggles to get out to her.—The prince, upon hearing of the circumſtance, ordered the Bear to be killed.

The *Bears* of America are ſmall and black, live entirely upon vegetable food, and are particularly fond of maize, potatoes, honey, and milk. Though preſſed with extreme hunger, they will not eat animal food.—They lodge in the hollow trunks of large trees, which they aſcend and deſcend with great eaſe and agility.——The hunters take them by ſetting fire to their habitations. The old one comes out firſt, and is generally ſlain before ſhe reaches the ground; the cubs follow her, and are taken alive.

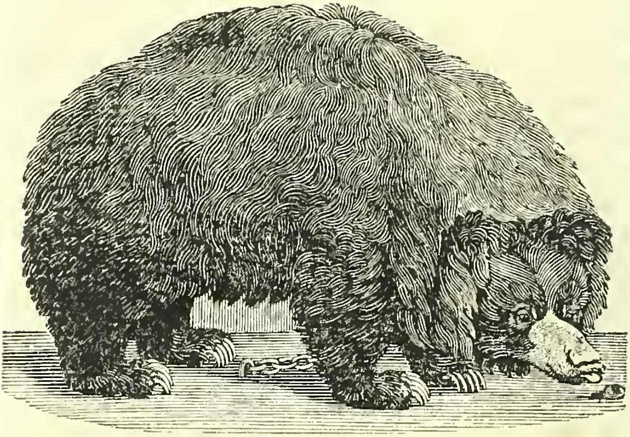
The fleſh of the young Bear is reckoned a great delicacy; and the paws of an old one are eſteemed as a moſt exquiſite morſel. The fat is white, and very ſweet; and the oil is ſaid to be of great uſe in ſoftening ſwellings proceeding from ſprains.

Great numbers are killed annually in America for the ſake of their ſkins, which form a conſiderable article of commerce.

Bears were formerly common in Greece. The Romans brought them from Lybia to be exhibited in their public ſpectacles.——They are likewiſe found in China, Japan, and as far as the iſland of Java.

The mountains of Great Tartary produce great numbers of *Bears* perfectly white, which do not differ in form from thoſe juſt mentioned.——Some, from the confines of Ruſſia, are of a mixed colour, with black and white hairs.

The Bear was once an inhabitant of this iſland, and was included in the ancient laws and regulations reſpecting beaſts of chaſe.——Long after their extirpation, they were imported for the cruel purpoſe of baiting them, which at that time was a favourite amuſement of our anceſtors. We find it, in queen Elizabeth's days, among the various entertainments prepared for her majeſty on her viſit at Kenilworth.

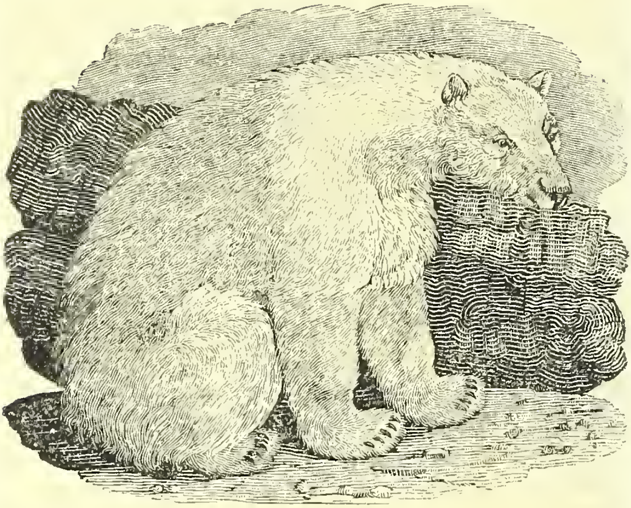


We have here given a faithful repreſentation, drawn from the life, of an animal which has hitherto eſcaped the obſervations of naturaliſts.——Its features and leading characters ſeem to be ſo ſtrong, as to leave no room for doubt with reſpect to its rank in the animal creation: And, from the ſtriking correſpondence of parts obſervable between it and the common Bear, we are induced to diſpoſe of them in the ſame claſs. We are the more confirmed in this opinion, from an attentive examination of its diſpoſition and manners; notwithſtanding, it ſeems to differ in ſome of thoſe characteriſtics which have been pointed out by naturaliſts as the guides to a regular and ſyſtematic arrangement.

Its body is covered with a long, rough, and ſhaggy coat of hair, which gives it, when lying down, the appearance of a rude and ſhapeleſs maſs; on the top of its back, the hair, which is twelve inches long, riſes up like a hunch, ſeparates in the middle, and falls down in different directions; its head is large, very broad at the forehead, and is the only part on which the hair is ſhort; its ſnout is long, and ends in a thin, broad cartilage, overhanging the noſtrils about an inch and a half; its lips are thin and very long, and ſeem to be furniſhed with muſcles, by which the animal can protrude them in a moſt ſingular manner, which it never fails to do when its attention is directed to any particular object, or when food is held out to it; its eyes are ſmall, black, and heavy, and its aſpect louring; its ears and tail are ſhort, and hid in the hair; its legs and thighs are remarkably thick and ſtrong; it treads on its heel like a Bear, and its toes are not divided; it has five long crooked white claws on each foot, which it uſes with great dexterity, either ſeparately or together, like fingers, to break its food into ſmaller portions, or to convey it to its mouth. Its colour is a deep, ſhining black; excepting the ſnout, and a ſpot above each eye, which are of a yellowiſh-white colour; there is likewiſe a creſcent of white underneath the throat. It has no cutting teeth; but two very ſtrong canine teeth, and ſix grinders, in each jaw.

It appears to be a gentle, good-natured animal; but when irritated or diſturbed, utters a ſhort abrupt roar, like a Bear, ending in a whining tone, expreſſive of impatience.—It feeds on bread, fruit, and nuts; is fond of honey; and will eat marrow, or the fat of meat, either raw or dreſſed; but refuſes roots of all kinds, and the lean or muſcular parts of fleſh.

This rare animal is ſaid to have been brought from the interior parts of Bengal; and that it burrows in the ground.



THE POLAR OR GREAT WHITE BEAR

differs greatly from the common Bear in the length of its head and neck, and grows to above twice the ſize. Some of them are thirteen feet long.—Its limbs are of great ſize and ſtrength; its hair long, harſh and diſagreeable to the touch, and of a yellowiſh-white colour; its ears are ſhort and rounded; and its teeth large.

It inhabits only the coldeſt parts of the globe; and has been found above latitude 80, as far as navigators have penetrated northwards. Theſe inhoſpitable regions ſeem adapted to its ſullen nature.

——" There————the ſhapeleſs Bear,
" With dangling ice all horrid, ſtalks forlorn:
" Slow-pac'd, and ſourer as the ſtorms increaſe,
" He makes his bed beneath th' inclement drift;
" And, with ſtern patience, ſcorning weak complaint,
" Hardens his heart againſt aſſailing want."

It has been ſeldom ſeen farther ſouth than Newfoundland; but abounds chiefly on the ſhores of Hudſon's Bay, Greenland, and Spitzbergen, on one ſide, and thoſe of Nova-Zembla on the other. It has been ſometimes found in the intermediate countries of Norway and Iceland; but ſuch as have appeared in thoſe parts have always been driven thither upon floating ſheets of ice; ſo that thoſe countries are only acquainted with them by accident.

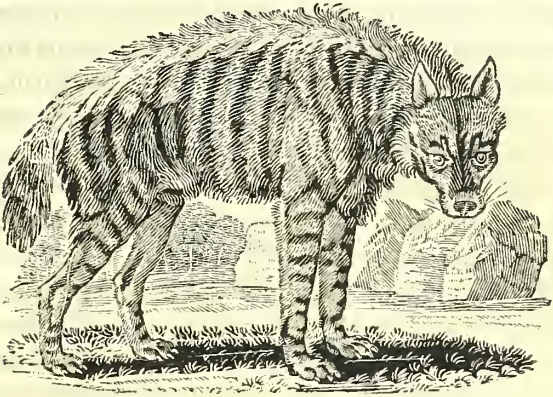
During ſummer, they take up their reſidence on large iſlands of ice, and frequently paſs from one to another. —They ſwim well, and can go to the diſtance of ſix or ſeven leagues: They likewiſe dive, but do not continue long under water.—When the pieces of ice are detached by ſtrong winds or currents, the Bears allow themſelves to be carried along with them, and as they cannot regain the land, or abandon the ice on which they are embarked, they often periſh in the open ſea. Thoſe which arrive with the ice on the coaſts of Iceland or Norway, are almoſt famiſhed with hunger from the length of their voyage, and are extremely voracious. As ſoon as the natives diſcover one of them, they arm themſelves, and preſently diſpatch him.

The ferocity of the Bear is as remarkable as its attachment to its young. A few years ſince, the crew of a boat belonging to a ſhip in the whale-fiſhery ſhot at a Bear at a ſhort diſtance, and wounded it. The animal immediately ſet up the moſt dreadful yells, and ran along the ice towards the boat. Before it reached it, a ſecond ſhot was fired, and hit it. This ſerved to increaſe its fury. It preſently ſwam to the boat; and in attempting to get on board, reached its fore foot upon the gunnel; but one of the crew having a hatchet, cut it off. The animal ſtill, however, continued to ſwim after them till they arrived at the ſhip; and ſeveral ſhots were fired at it, which alſo took effect: But on reaching the ſhip, it immediately aſcended the deck; and the crew having fled into the ſhrowds, it was purſuing them thither, when a ſhot from one of them laid it dead upon the deck.

Its fleſh is white, and is ſaid to taſte like mutton. The fat is melted for train-oil; and that of the feet is uſed in medicine.

The White Bear brings forth two young at a time. Their fondneſs for their offspring is ſo great, that they will die rather than deſert them: Wounds ſerve only to make the attachment more violent: They embrace their cubs to the laſt, and bemoan them with the moſt piteous cries.

They feed on fiſh, ſeals, and the carcaſes of whales. Allured by the ſcent of ſeal's fleſh, they often break into the huts of the Greenlanders.—They ſometimes attack the Morſe, with which they have terrible conflicts: But the large teeth of that animal give it a decided ſuperiority over the Bear, which is generally worſted.



THE STRIPED HYENA.

ALTHOUGH naturaliſts, both ancient and modern, have deſcribed the Hyena under different denominations, and have aſcribed to it properties which it is now known not to poſſeſs; yet its characters are ſo ſingular, that it is impoſſible to miſtake them, and ſo peculiar, as to diſtinguiſh it from every other claſs of animals. In many reſpects it reſembles thoſe of the Dog kind, has ſome ſimilitude to the Wolf in form and diſpoſition, and is about the ſame ſize.

The Hyena has only four toes on each foot; its head is broad and flat, and its muzzle ſhorter than that of the Wolf; its fore legs are longer than the hind ones; its ears are long, pointed, and bare; and its eyes are remarkably wild, ſullen, and ferocious.

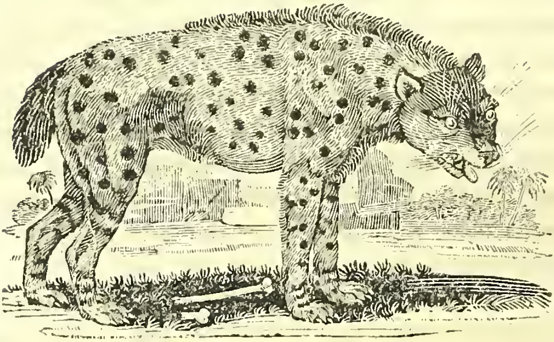
There are two varieties,—the one ſtriped, and the other ſpotted.—The hair of the former is of an aſh colour, marked with long black ſtripes, diſpoſed in waves, from the back downward; there are others acroſs the legs; the hair, in general, is coarſe and rough; its tail is ſhort and buſhy, with pretty long hair, ſometimes plain, and ſometimes barred with black; immediately underneath the tail, and above the anus, there is an orifice like that of the Badger, which opens into a kind of pouch, and contains a ſubſtance of the conſiſtence of civet, but of a rank, diſagreeable odour. This opening may probably have given riſe to the error of the ancients, who aſſerted, that the Hyena was every alternate year male and female. Its manner of holding its head is ſomewhat like a Dog purſuing a ſcent, with its noſe near the ground. This poſition of the head makes the ſhoulders appear more elevated. A briſtly mane runs along the top of the back from head to tail, which gives it an appearance ſomething like a Hog; from whence, probably, it may have derived its name; the word *huaina* being a Greek word derived from *hus*, which ſignifies a Sow.—Such are the moſt ſtriking diſtinctions of the Hyena, which has been pictured by ignorance and timidity under every form that can ſtrike terror into the imagination. Wonderful powers were aſcribed to it by the ancients; who believed, that it changed its ſex; that it imitated the human voice, and by that means attracted unwary travellers, and deſtroyed them; that it had the power of charming the ſhepherds, and as it were rivetting them to the place where they ſtood. Many other things, equally abſurd, have been told of this animal: But theſe are ſufficient to ſhew, that objects of terror and ſuperſtition are nearly allied; and when once they have taken poſſeſſion of the human mind, the moſt improbable ſtories are eaſily received and credited.

It reſides in the caverns of mountains, in the clefts of rocks, or in holes and dens, which it digs in the earth.—Its diſpoſition is extremely ferocious; and, though taken young, it never can be tamed.—It lives by depredations, like the Wolf; but is ſtronger, and more daring and rapacious. It follows the flocks, ravages the ſheepfold, and deſtroys every thing within its reach with the moſt inſatiable voracity.—Its eyes ſhine in the dark; and it is aſſerted, with ſome appearance of probability, that it can ſee nearly as well by night as by day.—When deſtitute of other proviſions, it ranſacks the graves, and devours putrid human bodies that have been long buried.

The voice of the Hyena is very peculiar: Its beginning ſeems to be ſomewhat like the moaning of a human voice, and the ending like one making a violent effort to vomit.

It inhabits Aſiatic Turkey, Syria, Perſia, and Barbary.—The ſuperſtitious Arabs, when they kill one of them, carefully bury the head, leſt it ſhould be applied to magical purpoſes.

The courage of the Hyena is equal to its rapacity. It will defend itſelf with great obſtinacy againſt much larger quadrupeds: It is not afraid of the Lion nor the Panther, will ſometimes attack the Ounce, and ſeldom fails to conquer.



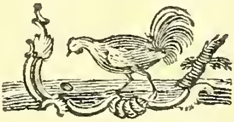
The Spotted HYENA

is called, at the Cape of Good Hope, the *Tiger-Wolf;* and is very common in that part of the world.——Sparrman deſcribes it as a cruel, miſchievous, and formidable animal.—-Its horrid yells are to be heard every night, whilſt it prowls about for its prey, and lurks near farm-yards, where cattle are kept. Theſe are well defended by Dogs, of which the Hyena, though larger and ſtronger, is much afraid; and will not venture an attack, unleſs preſſed by the moſt urgent neceſſity: Neither will it dare to ſeize upon any of the larger animals, ſuch as Oxen, Cows, Horſes, &c. whilſt they make the leaſt appearance of defending themſelves, or even if they do not betray any ſymptoms of fear. It ſometimes endeavours to diſperſe the cattle by its hideous roaring; after which it ſelects and purſues one of them, which it ſoon diſables by a deadly bite, and then devours.

Theſe animals were formerly ſo bold, as to moleſt the Hottentots in their huts, and ſometimes carry off their children; but, ſince the introduction of fire-arms, thoſe and other wild beaſts keep at a greater diſtance from the habitations of mankind.—It is a fact, however, that numbers of them attend almoſt every night about the ſhambles at the Cape, where they meet with bones, ſkin, and other offals, which are left there by the inhabitants, who ſuffer theſe animals to come unmoleſted, and carry off their refuſe; and it is ſomewhat remarkable, that they have ſeldom been known to do any miſchief there, though fed in the very heart of the town.

The howlings of the Hyena are dreadful beyond all conception, and ſpread a general alarm: They are almoſt inceſſant, and ſeem to be the natural conſequence of its craving appetite. Perhaps it may not be going too far to ſay, that Nature has kindly impreſſed this involuntary diſpoſition to yelling upon this animal, that every living creature might be upon its guard, and ſecure itſelf from the attacks of ſo cruel an enemy.

The general colour is a reddiſh-brown, marked with diſtinct round black ſpots, the hind legs with tranſverſe black bars; its head is large and flat; above each eye, as well as on the lips, it has long whiſkers; a ſhort black mane runs along the top of the back; its ears are ſhort and a little pointed; its face and the upper part of its head are black.



THE FOX.

THIS lively and crafty animal is common to every part of Great-Britain; and is ſo well known, as not to require a particular deſcription.

M. Buffon has taken great pains to prove, that the Dog and the Fox will not breed together. For this purpoſe, he kept two males and a female for a conſiderable time, and tried to make the males copulate with bitches, which they uniformly refuſed; and from thence he concludes, that no mixture can take place between the two ſpecies. But it ſhould be remembered, that the Foxes were in a ſtate of confinement; and of courſe, many circumſtances might concur to diſguſt them, and render the experiment abortive. In confirmation of this, we need only obſerve, that the ſame Foxes, which, when at liberty, darted on the poultry with their uſual eagerneſs, never attempted to touch a ſingle fowl after they were chained: And we are told further, " that a living hen was generally fixed near them for a whole night; and, though food was kept from them for many hours, yet, in ſpite of hunger and opportunity, they never forgot that they were chained, and diſturbed not the hen." Now if any one ſhould be ſo hardy as to aſſert from this, that Foxes have a natural averſion to poultry, one may eaſily conceive how little credit would be given to the concluſion, and how much laughter it would excite. We juſt mention this, to ſhew, that experiments of this kind, where Nature is thwarted in her proceſs, or reſtrained in any of her operations, are not always to be depended upon.—That the Fox and the Dog will breed together, is a fact, too well known in ſeveral parts of the North of England, to admit of the ſmalleſt doubt.—It is a common practice in many places to tie up a bitch that is in ſeaſon, where ſhe may be viſited by a Fox, and be impregnated by him. The fruits of the connection are ſufficiently obvious: Moſt, if not all the puppies, have a ſtrong reſemblance to the Fox: The ſharp noſe, prick ears, long body, and ſhort legs of the Fox, evidently point out their origin.—Theſe Dogs are highly eſteemed by farmers and graziers, as the moſt uſeful kind for driving cattle. They bite keenly; are extremely active and playful; and are very expert at deſtroying weaſels, rats, and other vermin.

The Fox ſleeps much during the day; but the night is its ſeaſon of activity, and the time when it roams about in ſearch of prey.—It will eat fleſh of any kind; but prefers that of hares, rabbits, poultry, and all kinds of birds. Thoſe that reſide near the ſea coaſts will, for want of other food, eat crabs, ſhrimps, muſcles, and other ſhellfiſh.

In France and Italy, the Fox does great damage among the vineyards, by feeding on the grapes, of which it is extremely fond.——It boldly attacks the wild bees, and frequently robs them of their ſtores; but not with impunity: The whole ſwarm flies out, and faſtens upon the invader; but he retires only for a few minutes, and rids himſelf of the bees by rolling upon the ground; by which means he cruſhes ſuch as ſtick to him, and then returns to his charge, and devours both wax and honey.

The cunning of the Fox in ſurprizing and ſecuring its prey is equally remarkable. When it has acquired more than it can devour, its firſt care is to ſecure what it has killed, which is generally all within its reach. It digs holes in different places, where it conceals its booty by carefully covering it with earth to prevent a diſcovery. If a flock of poultry have unfortunately fallen victims to its ſtratagems, it will bring them, one by one, to theſe hiding-places; where it leaves them till hunger demands freſh ſupplies.

The chaſe of the Fox is a very favourite diverſion in this kingdom, and is no-where purſued with ſuch ardour and intrepidity. Both our Dogs and Horſes are confeſſedly ſuperior to thoſe of any other country.—The inſtant the Fox finds he is purſued, he flies towards his hole; and finding it ſtopped, which is always carefully done before the chaſe begins, he has recourſe to his ſpeed and his cunning for ſafety. He does not double and meaſure his ground back like the Hare, but continues his courſe ſtraight forward before the Hounds with great ſtrength and perſeverance. Both Dogs and Horſes, particularly the latter, have frequently fallen victims to the ardour of the purſuit, which has ſometimes continued for upwards of fifty miles without the ſmalleſt intermiſſion, and almoſt at full ſpeed *.——As the ſcent of the Fox is very ſtrong, the Dogs follow with great alacrity and eagerneſs, and have been known to keep up a conſtant chaſe for eight or ten hours together; and it is hard to ſay, whether the ſpirited eagerneſs of the Hounds, the ardour of the Horſes, or the enthuſiaſm of the hunters, is moſt to

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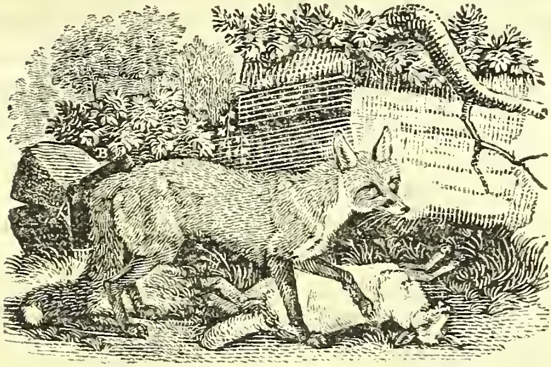
* Mr CHARLES TURNER'S Hounds hunted at Ayreyholm, near Hurworth, in the county of Durham, and found the noted old Fox CESAR, which made an extraordinary chaſe. After a round of four miles, he led to Smeaton, through Hornby and Appleton; then back again to Hornby, Worſet-moor, Pierſburgh, Limpton, Craythorn, Middleton, Hilton, Seamer, Newby, Marton, Ormſby; then upon Hambleton, through Kirkleatham-park, Upleatham, Skelton, and Kilton. Mr Turner tired three Horſes; and only three Hounds were in purſuit, when he thought proper to call them off, it being near five in the evening. The chaſe was upwards of fifty miles.

be admired. The Fox is the only one of the party which has the plea of neceſſity on his ſide; and it operates ſo ſtrongly, that he often eſcapes the utmoſt efforts of his purſuers, and returns to his hole in ſafety. The ſmell of his urine is ſo offenſive to the Dogs, that it ſometimes proves the means of his eſcape from them. When all his ſhifts have failed him, and he is at laſt overtaken, he then defends himſelf with great obſtinacy, and fights in ſilence till he is torn in pieces by the Dogs.

There are three varieties of Foxes in this iſland, which differ from each other more in form than in colour.

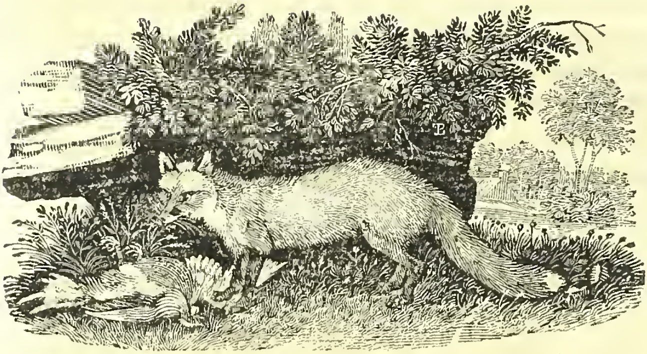


THE GREYHOUND FOX

is the largeſt, and is chiefly found in the mountainous parts of England and Scotland: He is likewiſe the boldeſt, and will attack a well-grown Sheep.—His ears are long and erect, and his aſpect wild.

THE MASTIFF FOX

is rather leſs; but his limbs are more ſtrongly formed.



THE CUR FOX

is the leaſt, but the moſt common; and approaches neareſt to the habitations of mankind. It lurks about the out-houſes of the farmer, and carries off all the poultry within its reach.—It is remarkably playful and familiar when tamed; but, like all wild animals half-reclaimed, will, on the leaſt offence, bite thoſe it is moſt familiar with.

The eye of the Fox is of a lively hazel colour, very ſignificant and expreſſive; and diſcovers very ſenſibly the different emotions of love, fear, or anger, by which it may be affected.—It ſeems greatly to admire its buſhy tail, and frequently amuſes itſelf by endeavouring to catch it as it runs round. In cold weather, when it lies down, it folds it about its head.

The Fox ſleeps ſound; and, like the Dog, lies in a round form. When he is only repoſing himſelf, he ſtretches out his hind legs, and lies on his belly. In this poſition, he ſpies the birds as they alight on the hedges or places near him, and is ready to ſpring upon ſuch as are within his reach. He rarely lies expoſed, but chuſes the cover of ſome thick brake, where he is pretty ſecure from being ſurprized.—Crows, magpies, and other birds, which conſider the Fox as a common enemy, will often give notice of his retreat by the moſt clamorous notes, and frequently follow him a conſiderable way from tree to tree, repeating their outcries.

Foxes produce but once a year, from three to ſix young ones at a time. When the female is pregnant, ſhe retires, and ſeldom goes out of her hole, where ſhe prepares a bed for her young. She comes in ſeaſon in the winter; and young Foxes are found in the month of April. If ſhe perceive that her habitation is diſcovered, ſhe carries them off, one by one, to a more ſecure retreat. The young are brought forth blind, like puppies. They grow eighteen months or two years, and live thirteen or fourteen years.

The Fox is frequently taken in traps; but great caution muſt be uſed to deceive this wily animal. The trap muſt be placed in the midſt of a field, where there is neither hedge nor path near it, and ſo nicely covered with mould, that not the leaſt veſtige can be ſeen where it lies: About the trap, and at a ſmall diſtance from it, in different places, a few pieces of cheeſe, or other ſtrongly-ſcented food, muſt be careleſsly ſcattered: Then with a ſheep's paunch, or ſome other animal ſubſtance, a trail is made, of about a mile in length, to the different places where the bait is laid, and from thence to the trap: The ſhoes of the perſon who carries the trail muſt be likewiſe well rubbed with the paunch, that the Fox may not diſcover his ſcent. He then approaches with more confidence; and if the deſign be well conducted, ſeldom fails of being caught.

There are many varieties of this animal, apparently produced by the influence of climate. Thoſe of this country are moſtly of a tawny-red, mixed with aſh colour; the fore part of the legs is black, and the tail tipt with white.—In colder countries, Foxes are of various colours.

THE BLACK FOX

is moſt valuable for its fur, which is eſteemed in Ruſſia ſuperior to that of the fineſt ſable. A ſingle ſkin will ſell for four hundred rubles.

THE CROSS FOX

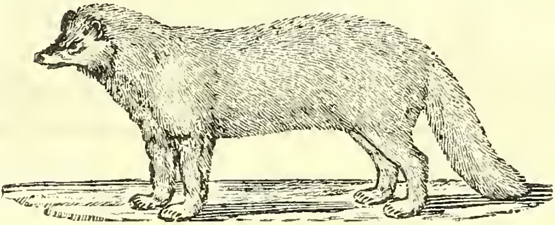
inhabits the coldeſt parts of Europe, Aſia, and North-America.——Its fur is very valuable, being thicker and ſofter than the common ſort.—Great numbers of ſkins are imported from Canada.

It derives its name from a black mark which paſſes over its back acroſs the ſhoulders, and another along the back to the tail.

THE CORSAC FOX

is common in the deſerts beyond the Yaick river, and ſeems to be the ſame animal deſcribed by M. Buffon under the name of the *Iſatis*.——In ſummer, it is of a pale-tawny colour, with a white throat; in winter, it is grey: The tip of the tail is black.—It is ſmaller than the common Fox; and its hair is ſoft and downy.

It lives in holes in the earth, and is caught by the Kirgis-Khaiſſacs with falcons and greyhounds. Forty or fifty thouſand are taken annually, and ſold to the Ruſſians at the rate of forty copeics (about twenty-pence) each.——The natives, in their traffic, uſe their ſkins inſtead of money. Great numbers are ſent into Turkey.

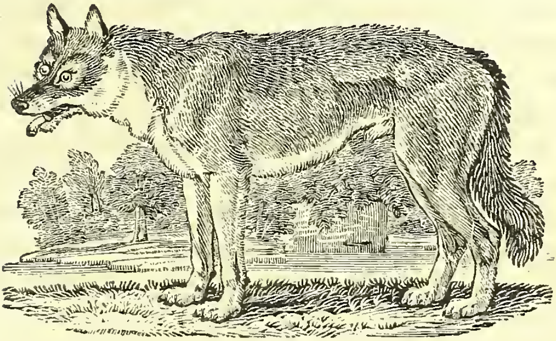


THE ARCTIC FOX

inhabits the countries bordering on the Frozen Sea. It is found in Greenland, Iceland, Spitzbergen, Nova-Zembla, and Lapland; in Kamtſchatka, and the oppoſite parts of America.——It burrows, and makes holes in the ground, ſeveral feet in length; at the end of which it forms a neſt with moſs. In Greenland and Spitzbergen, it lives in the clefts of rocks, being unable to burrow on account of the froſt. Two or three of them inhabit the ſame hole.

It is endowed with all the cunning of the common Fox; preys on young geeſe, ducks, and other water-fowl, before they are able to fly; likewiſe, on hares, wild birds, and eggs: And in Greenland, for want of other food, it feeds on berries and ſhell-fiſh. In Lapland and the North of Aſia, its principal food is the Leming, or Lapland Marmot; immenſe ſhoals of which ſometimes cover the face of the country. The Foxes follow them, in their migrations, from one place to another; and as the return of the Marmot is very uncertain, and frequently after great intervals of time, they are ſometimes abſent three or four years in purſuit of this their favourite prey.

The hair of the Arctic Fox is of an aſh colour, but changes to white in the winter, when it is long, ſoft, and ſomewhat woolly: Its tail is ſhorter than that of the common Fox, and more buſhy; and its toes are covered with fur on the under part, like thoſe of a Hare: It is ſmaller and more ſlender than the European Fox: Its noſe is ſharp and black; and its ears ſhort, and almoſt hid in the fur.—It is ſometimes taken in traps: But its ſkin is of little value.



THE WOLF.

ALL naturaliſts agree in placing the Wolf and the Dog in the ſame claſs; and, from the ſlighteſt inſpection of its external form only, it would ſeem that the Wolf was in every reſpect a Dog in its ſtate of natural freedom. The ſhape of its head is different; and its eyes, being fixed in a more oblique poſition, give it a look of more ſavage fierceneſs: Its ears are ſharp and erect; its tail long, buſhy, and bending inwards between its hind legs; its body is ſtronger than that of almoſt any ſpecies of Dogs, its jaws and teeth larger, and its hair coarſer and thicker. The internal ſtructure of theſe animals is perfectly ſimilar. The Wolf couples in the ſame manner as the Dog; and its immediate ſeparation is prevented from the ſame cauſe: The time of geſtation is alſo nearly the ſame; and from a variety of ſucceſsful experiments related by the celebrated Dr Hunter, there is no longer any room to doubt, that the Wolf and the Dog will copulate together, and produce an intermediate ſpecies, capable of ſubſequent propagation.

The appetite of the Wolf, for every kind of animal food, is exceſſively voracious; and, although Nature has furniſhed it with every requiſite for purſuing and conquering its prey, it is frequently reduced to the laſt extremity, and ſometimes periſhes for want of food. So great is the general deteſtation of this deſtructive creature, that all the wild animals endeavour to avoid it, and moſt commonly eſcape by their ſuperior ſwiftneſs.

When preſſed with hunger from repeated diſappointments, the Wolf becomes courageous from neceſſity. It then braves every danger, and even attacks thoſe animals that are under the protection of man. Sometimes whole droves of them join in the cruel work of general devaſtation, roam through the villages, and attack the ſheepfolds: They dig the earth under the doors, enter with dreadful ferocity, and put every living creature to death before they depart. The Horſe is the only tame animal that can defend itſelf againſt them: All the weaker animals become their prey: Even man himſelf, upon theſe occaſions, frequently falls a victim to their rapacity; and it is ſaid, that when once they have taſted human blood, they always give it the preference.—From hence, many ſuperſtitious ſtories have been told of the Wolf. The old Saxons believed, that it was poſſeſſed by ſome evil ſpirit, and called it the *Were-Wulf;* and the French peaſants, from the ſame reaſon, call it the *Loup-garou.*

The language of the poet is beautifully deſcriptive of this creature's inſatiable fury:—

"By wintry famine rous'd, from all the tract
"Of horrid mountains, which the ſhining Alps,
"And wavy Appenine, and Pyrenees,
"Branch out, ſtupendous, into diſtant lands,
"Cruel as death! and hungry as the grave!
"Burning for blood! bony, and ghaunt, and grim!

> " Aſſembling Wolves, in raging troops, deſcend;
> " And, pouring o'er the country, bear along,
> " Keen as the north wind ſweeps the gloſſy ſnow:
> " All is their prize."————

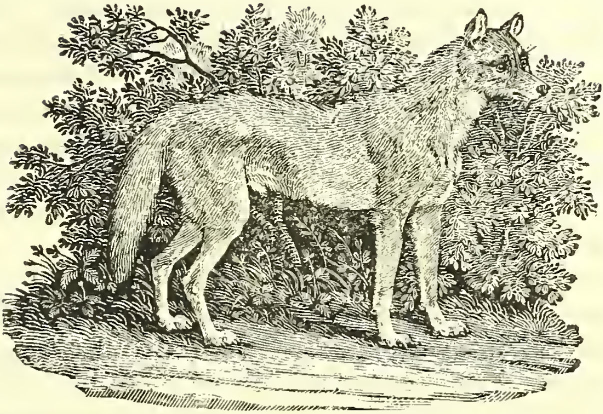
The Wolf has great ſtrength, eſpecially in the muſcles of his neck and jaws: He can carry a Sheep in his mouth, and eaſily run off with it in that manner. His bite is cruel and deadly, and keener as it meets with leſs reſiſtance; but when oppoſed, he is cautious and circumſpect, and ſeldom fights but from neceſſity. He is harder and more robuſt, but not ſo ſenſible as the Dog. He almoſt inceſſantly prowls about for prey, and of all animals is the moſt difficult to conquer in the chaſe. His ſenſe of ſmelling is peculiarly ſtrong: He ſcents the track of animals, and follows it with great perſeverance: The odour of carrion ſtrikes him at the diſtance of near a league.

Wolves are capable of bearing want of food for a long time. To allay their hunger, they will ſometimes fill their ſtomachs with mud.—They have been known to follow armies, and aſſemble in troops upon the field of battle; tear up ſuch bodies as have been careleſsly interred, and devour them with inſatiable avidity.

In all ages, the Wolf has been conſidered as the moſt ſavage enemy of mankind, and rewards given for its head. Various methods have been taken to rid the world of this rapacious invader: Pit-falls, traps, and poiſon, have all been employed againſt him; and, happily for theſe iſlands, the whole race has long been extirpated here. King Edgar attempted to effect it in England by remitting the puniſhment of certain crimes on producing a number of Wolves' tongues; and in Wales, the tax of gold and ſilver was commuted for an annual tribute of Wolves' heads.—Some centuries after that, they increaſed to ſuch a degree, as to become an object of royal attention; and great rewards were given for deſtroying them. Camden informs us, that certain perſons held their lands on condition of hunting and deſtroying the Wolves that infeſted the country; whence they were called the *Wolve-hunt.*——In the reign of Athelſtan, Wolves abounded ſo much in Yorkſhire, that a retreat was built at Flixton to defend paſſengers from their attacks.——As the ravages of theſe animals were greateſt during winter, particularly in January, when the cold was ſevereſt, our Saxon Anceſtors diſtinguiſhed that month by the title of *Wolf-moneth.* They alſo called an outlaw *Wolfſhed,* as being out of the protection of the law, and as liable to be killed as that deſtructive beaſt.—They infeſted Ireland many centuries after their extinction in England; the laſt preſentment for killing Wolves being made in the county of Cork about the year 1710.

Theſe animals abound in the immenſe foreſts of Germany, where the following methods are taken to deſtroy them:—In ſome very ſequeſtered part of the foreſt, they hang up a large piece of carrion to the branch of a tree, having previouſly made a train of ſome miles long, leaving ſmall pieces of putrid fleſh here and there to allure the Wolves to the ſpot: They then wait till it is dark, and approach the place with great circumſpection; where they ſometimes find two or three Wolves aſſembled, leaping up, and ſtraining themſelves to catch the bait, which is placed juſt within their reach; and while the animals are buſily employed in this way, the hunters being provided with fire-arms, ſeldom fail to diſpatch them.—In a convenient place, at the foot of a declivity, they make a ſmall incloſure of ſtrong pales, ſo high, that the Wolf having once entered, cannot return again. An opening is left at the top of the bank; and a Sheep that has been long dead, is the bait; to which he is allured by long trains, made from different places where he is known to haunt. As ſoon as he arrives at the ſpot, he examines every part of the incloſure; and finding no other way to come at the booty, he precipitates himſelf to the bottom; and having made a plentiful meal, endeavours in vain to reaſcend. His diſappointment at not being able to get back is productive of the moſt dreadful howlings, which alarm his enemies; and they either take him alive, or diſpatch him with bludgeons. It is remarkable, that when this animal finds there is no poſſibility of eſcaping, his courage entirely forſakes him; and he is for ſome time ſo ſtupified with fear, that he may be killed without offering to reſiſt, or taken alive without much danger.—Wolves are ſometimes taken in ſtrong nets, into which they are driven by the hunters, who ſurround a large tract of land, and with drums, horns, and other inſtruments, accompanied with loud cries from a large company aſſembled upon the occaſion, drive the animals towards the entrance of the nets; where they are entangled, and killed with clubs and hatchets. Great care muſt be taken to ſecure them at firſt: If they recover from their conſternation, they eaſily eſcape by tearing the net to pieces.

Wolves are found, with ſome variety, in almoſt every country of the world. Thoſe of Senegal are larger and fiercer than thoſe of Europe.—In North-America, they are ſmall, of a dark colour, and may be eaſily tamed. Before the introduction of Dogs, the ſavages made uſe of them in hunting the wild animals of the country; and they are ſtill employed for the ſame purpoſe in the more remote parts of that vaſt continent. They are ſaid to hunt in packs, and run down the Deer by their ſcent. The appearance of theſe animals near the habitations of the Indians, ſometimes indicates that the Biſon or the Deer is at no great diſtance; and when any of thoſe are taken, the Wolves are rewarded with the offal. Cateſby affirms, that the Wolves of that country have mixed with the Dogs carried thither by the Europeans, and produced an intermediate race.—In the northern regions, there are Wolves entirely white, and others of a deep-black.—In Mexico, there is a variety of the Wolf, with a very large head, ſtrong jaws, and great teeth: On the upper lip it has ſtrong briſtles, not unlike the ſofter ſpines of the Porcupine, of a grey and white colour; its ears are large and erect; its body is aſh-coloured, ſpotted with black; on its ſides there are black ſtripes from the back downward; its neck is fat and thick, covered with a looſe ſkin, marked with a long tawny ſtroke; on the breaſt is another of the ſame kind; the tail is long, and tinged in the middle with tawny; the legs and feet are ſtriped with black. It inhabits the hot parts of Mexico or New-Spain, is equally voracious with the European Wolf, attacks cattle, and ſometimes men.—There are no Wolves farther ſouth on the new continent.

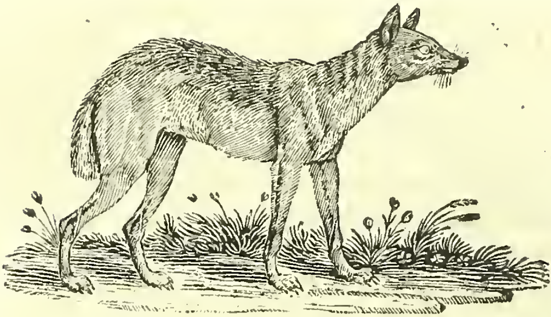


THE NEW SOUTH-WALES WOLF

has been called a Dog; but its wild and ſavage nature ſeems ſtrongly to point out its affinity to the Wolf; to which, in other reſpects, it bears a great reſemblance. It neither barks nor growls; but when vexed, erects the hairs of its whole body like briſtles, and appears extremely furious.—It is fond of rabbits and poultry, which it eagerly devours raw; but will not touch dreſſed meat.

One of them, ſent to this country from Botany-Bay, was extremely nimble; and ſo fierce, as to ſeize on every animal it ſaw. If not reſtrained, it would have run down Deer and Sheep: An Aſs had alſo nearly fallen a victim to its fury.

Its height is rather leſs than two feet; the length two feet and a half: It is formed much like a Wolf; its ears ſhort and erect, and its tail long and buſhy: The general colour is a pale-brown, lighter on the belly; the feet and inſide of the legs are white.



THE JACKAL.

WE beg leave to make our acknowledgments to Mr Pennant for the drawing of this animal, which he aſſures us was drawn from the life; and we doubt not, therefore, its being a faithful repreſentation.

The ſpecies of the Jackal is diffuſed, with ſome variety, through almoſt every part of Aſia; and is found in Barbary, and other parts of Africa, as far as the Cape of Good Hope.

Although it is one of the moſt numerous of all the wild animals of the Eaſt, there is ſcarcely any leſs known in Europe, or more confuſedly deſcribed by natural hiſtorians.

They vary in ſize. Thoſe of the warmeſt climates are ſaid to be the largeſt. They are of a reddiſh-brown colour.—The ſmaller Jackal is about the ſize of a Fox; and its colour is a bright-yellow.

That the Jackal is nearly allied to the Dog, has been clearly proved, from a circumſtance related by Mr Hunter, of a female Jackal taken on board an Eaſt-Indiaman at Bombay whilſt a cub, and being impregnated by a

Dog during the voyage, brought forth ſix puppies; one of which afterwards produced young ones, from an intercourſe with a Dog.—From theſe and other recent facts, it appears, that the Fox, the Wolf, the Jackal, and the Dog, may be conſidered as different ſpecies of the ſame genus; and that the Jackal makes nearer approaches to the Dog than either the Fox or the Wolf.

Jackals go in packs of forty or fifty, and hunt like hounds in full cry from evening till morning. They deſtroy the poultry, and attack the flocks: They roam through the villages and gardens, and carry off every thing they can eat: They enter ſtables, yards, and outhouſes; and devour ſkins, and every thing that is made of leather; ſuch as harneſſing, boots, ſhoes, &c. Nothing can eſcape their rapacity. They will ranſack the repoſitories of the dead, and greedily devour the moſt putrid bodies; for which reaſon, in thoſe countries where they abound, the inhabitants are obliged to make the graves of a great depth, and ſecure them with ſpines, to prevent the Jackals from raking up the earth with their feet. They are ſaid to attend caravans, and follow armies, in hopes of being furniſhed with a banquet by diſeaſe or battle.—They may be conſidered as the vulture among quadrupeds; and, like that deſtructive bird, devour every thing indiſcriminately that has once had animal life.—They hide themſelves in holes and dens by day, and ſeldom appear abroad till the evening; when they fill the air with the moſt horrid howlings, and begin the chaſe. The Lion, the Panther, and other beaſts of prey that do not follow by the ſcent, take advantage of the general conſternation, and follow in ſilence behind till the Jackals have hunted down their prey: They then devour the fruits of their labours, and leave them only the remains of the ſpoil; from whence the Jackal has been vulgarly called the *Lion's Provider*, as if thoſe two animals acted in concert, and had formed a plan for their mutual ſupport.

The Jackal frequently purſues the Gazelle; and is ſo bold, as to follow it even into the midſt of a town or village, whither that timid animal frequently flies for protection, and by that means ſometimes eſcapes.

Sparrman's deſcription of thoſe he ſaw at the Cape differs materially from the accounts we have been able to collect from other authors. He ſays they are about three feet in length, and their tails little more than a foot long: The predominant colour is a reddiſh-yellow; the legs are of a pale gold colour; under the belly, and on the inſide of the legs, the colour inclines to white; the noſe and ears are of a brighter red; the head, neck, and back, are grey; the tail is partly grey, and partly of an umber colour, and black at the tip. He ſays it reſembles the European Fox in form, manners, and diſpoſition; and is not known to aſſemble in packs for the purpoſe of hunting; neither is its voracity equal to that aſcribed to it by other naturaliſts.——It is probable it may have been confounded with the Wild Dog, which is common at the Cape, and hunts its prey in packs. It is very fierce and miſchievous, and very deſtructive to the flocks of Sheep and Goats in thoſe parts.—There are two kinds of theſe Dogs,—the one large, and of a reddiſh colour; the other leſs, and browner. They are very bold, and wander about night and day in ſearch of prey. They make a noiſe ſomewhat like the cry of our common Hounds, and hunt with great ſagacity, acting perfectly in concert with each other till the game falls a prey to the pack. They are ſaid to be always extremely lean, and very ugly.

M. Buffon mentions an animal of the Jackal kind by the name of the *Adive;* of which he gives a drawing, ſomewhat reſembling a ſmall Fox. It is leſs than the common Jackal; and is ſometimes tamed, and kept in a domeſtic ſtate.

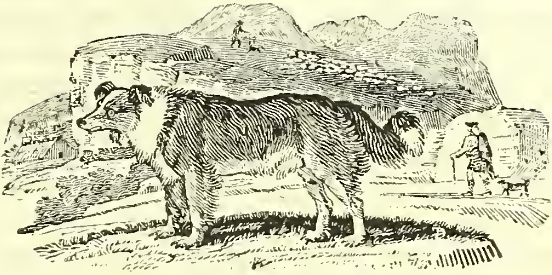
THE DOG.

THE ſervices of this truly valuable creature have been ſo eminently uſeful to the domeſtic intereſts of men in all ages, that to give the hiſtory of the Dog would be little leſs than to trace mankind back to their original ſtate of ſimplicity and freedom, to mark the progreſs of civilization through the various changes of the world, and to follow attentively the gradual advancement of that order which placed man at the head of the animal world, and gave him a manifeſt ſuperiority over every part of the brute creation.

If we conſider for a moment the ſtate of man without the aid of this uſeful domeſtic;—with what arts ſhall he oppoſe the numerous hoſts of foes that ſurround him on all ſides, ſeeking every opportunity to encroach upon his poſſeſſions, to deſtroy his labours, or endanger his perſonal ſafety? or how ſhall he bring into ſubjection ſuch as are neceſſary for his well-being? His utmoſt vigilance will not be ſufficient to ſecure him from the rapacity of the one, nor his greateſt exertions enable him to overcome the ſpeed of the other. To maintain his independence, to inſure his ſafety, and to provide for his ſupport, it was neceſſary that ſome one among the animals ſhould be brought over to his aſſiſtance, whoſe zeal and fidelity might be depended on: And where, amidſt all the various orders of animated being, could one be found ſo entirely adapted to this purpoſe? where could one be found ſo bold, ſo tractable, and ſo obedient, as the Dog? —To confirm the truth of theſe obſervations, we need only turn our attention to the preſent condition of thoſe nations not yet emerged from a ſtate of barbariſm, where the uſes of the Dog are but little known or attended to, and we will find that they lead a precarious and wretched life of perpetual warfare with the ſtill more ſavage inhabitants of the foreſt, with which they are obliged to diſpute the poſſeſſion of their uncultivated fields, and, not unfrequently, to divide with them the fruits of their labours.—From hence we may conclude, that the attention of mankind, in the earlieſt ages, would be engaged in training and rendering this animal ſubſervient to the important purpoſes of domeſtic utility; and the reſult of this art has been the conqueſt and peaceable poſſeſſion of the earth.

Of all animals, the Dog ſeems moſt ſuſceptible of change, and moſt eaſily modified by difference of climate, food, and education; not only the figure of his body, but his faculties, habits, and diſpoſitions, vary in a ſurprizing manner: Nothing appears conſtant in them but their internal conformation, which is alike in all; in every other reſpect, they are very diſſimilar: They vary in ſize, in figure, in the length of the noſe and ſhape of the head, in the length and direction of the ears and tail, in the colour, quality, and quantity of the hair, &c. To enumerate the different kinds, or mark the diſcriminations by which each is diſtinguiſhed, would be a taſk as fruitleſs as it would be impoſſible; to account for this wonderful variety, or inveſtigate the character of the primitive ſtock from which they have ſprung, would be equally vain. Of this only we are certain, that, in every age, Dogs have been found poſſeſſed of qualities moſt admirably adapted for the various purpoſes to which they have been from time to time applied.—We have ſeen, in the hiſtory of the Cow and the Sheep, that thoſe animals which have been long under the management of man, never preſerve the ſtamp of nature in its original purity.

In wild animals, which ſtill enjoy their original freedom from reſtraint, and have the independent choice of food and climate, this impreſſion is ſtill faithfully preſerved; but thoſe which man has ſubdued, tranſported from climate to climate, changed their food, habits, and manner of living, muſt neceſſarily have ſuffered the greateſt alterations in their form; and as the Dog, of all other domeſtic animals, is moſt accuſtomed to this influence, is endowed with diſpoſitions the moſt docile and obedient, is ſuſceptible of every impreſſion, and ſubmiſſive to every reſtraint, we need not wonder that he ſhould be ſubject to the greateſt variety.—To an attentive obſerver of the canine race, it is truly wonderful and curious to obſerve the rapid changes and ſingular combinations of forms, ariſing from promiſcuous intercourſe, which every-where preſent themſelves: They appear in endleſs ſucceſſion, and ſeem more like the effect of whimſical caprice than the regular and uniform production of Nature: So that, in whatever light we conſider the various mixtures which at preſent abound, and render every idea of a ſyſtematic arrangement dubious and problematical, we may fairly preſume, that the ſervices of the Dog would be firſt required in maintaining and preſerving the ſuperiority of man over thoſe animals which were deſtined for his ſupport.



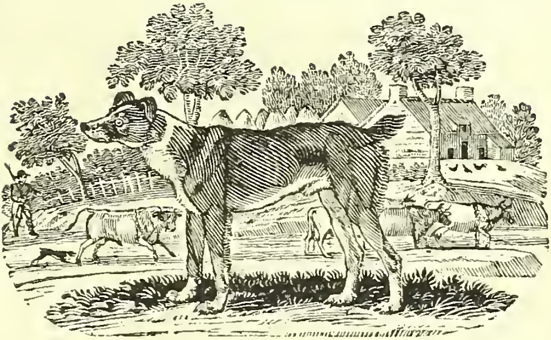
THE SHEPHERD'S DOG.

This uſeful animal, ever faithful to his charge, reigns at the head of the flock; where it is better heard, and more attended to, than even the voice of the ſhepherd. Safety, order, and diſcipline, are the fruits of his vigilance and activity.

In thoſe large tracts of land which, in many parts of our iſland, are ſolely appropriated to the feeding of Sheep and other cattle, this ſagacious animal is of the utmoſt importance. Immenſe flocks may be ſeen continually ranging over thoſe extenſive wilds, as far as the eye can reach, ſeemingly without controul: Their only guide is the ſhepherd, attended by his Dog, the conſtant companion of his toils: It receives his commands, and is always prompt to execute them; it is the watchful guardian of the flock, prevents them from ſtraggling, keeps them together, and conducts them from one part of their paſture to another; it will not ſuffer any ſtrangers to mix with them, but carefully keeps off every intruder. In driving a number of Sheep to any diſtant part, a well-trained Dog never fails to confine them to the road, watches every avenue that leads from it; where he takes his ſtand, threatening every delinquent: He purſues the ſtragglers, if any ſhould eſcape; and forces them into order, without doing them the leaſt injury. If the herdſman be at any time abſent from the flock, he depends upon his Dog to keep them together; and as ſoon as he gives the well-known ſignal, this faithful creature conducts them to his maſter, though at a conſiderable diſtance.

There is a very remarkable ſingularity in the feet of the Shepherd's Dog, which we have likewiſe obſerved in thoſe of the Cur and the Spaniel. All of them have one, and ſome two toes more than moſt Dogs, though they ſeem not to be of much uſe. They appear to be deſtitute of muſcles, and hang dangling at the hind part of the leg more like an unnatural excreſcence than a neceſſary part of the animal. But the adage, that 'Nature has made nothing in vain,' ought to correct our deciſion on their utility, which probably may exiſt unknown to us.

This breed of Dogs, at preſent, appears to be preſerved, in the greateſt purity, in the northern parts of Scotland; where its aid is highly neceſſary in managing the numerous herds of Sheep bred in thoſe extenſive wilds.



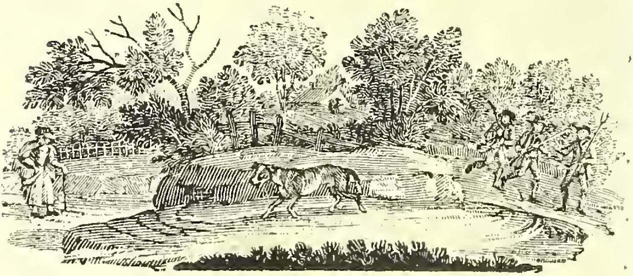
THE CUR-DOG

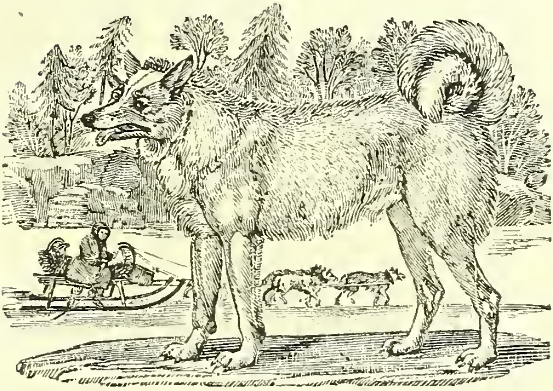
is a truſty and uſeful ſervant to the farmer and grazier; and, although it is not taken notice of by naturaliſts as a diſtinct race, yet it is now ſo generally uſed, eſpecially in the North of England, and ſuch great attention is paid in breeding it, that we cannot help conſidering it as a permanent kind.

They are chiefly employed in driving cattle; in which way they are extremely uſeful. They are larger, ſtronger, and fiercer than the Shepherd's Dog; and their hair is ſmoother and ſhorter. They are moſtly of a black and white colour. Their ears are half-pricked: And many of them are whelped with ſhort tails, which ſeem as if they had been cut: Theſe are called *Self-tailed Dogs*. They bite very keenly; and as they always make their attack at the heels, the cattle have no defence againſt them: In this way, they are more than a match for a Bull, which they quickly compel to run.—Their ſagacity is uncommonly great: They know their maſter's fields, and are ſingularly attentive to the cattle that are in them:

A good Dog watches, goes his rounds; and, if any ſtrange cattle ſhould happen to appear amongſt the herd, although unbidden, he quickly flies at them, and with keen bites obliges them to depart.

Similar to the Cur, is that which is commonly uſed in driving cattle to the ſlaughter: And as theſe Dogs have frequently to go long journies, great ſtrength, as well as ſwiftneſs, is required for that purpoſe. They are therefore generally of a mixed kind; and unite in them the ſeveral qualities of the Shepherd's Dog, the Cur, the Maſtiff, and the Greyhound.—Thus, by a judicious mixture of different kinds, the ſervices of the Dog are rendered ſtill more various and extenſive, and the great purpoſes of domeſtic utility more fully anſwered.





THE GREENLAND DOG.

The ſavage aſpect and diſpoſition of this Dog ſeem to bear ſome affinity to the rigours of the climate it inhabits.

The Pomeranian or Wolf Dog of M. Buffon, the Siberian, Lapland, and Iceland Dogs are ſomewhat ſimilar to it in the ſharpneſs of their muzzles, in their long ſhaggy hair, and buſhy curling tails. The principal difference is in their ſize.—Though much larger, they all of them have ſome reſemblance to the Shepherd's Dog.

Moſt of the Greenland Dogs are white; but ſome are ſpotted, and ſome black. They may rather be ſaid to howl than bark.—The Greenlanders ſometimes eat their fleſh: They make garments of their ſkins, and uſe them in drawing ſledges; to which they yoke them, four, five, and ſometimes ſix together *.

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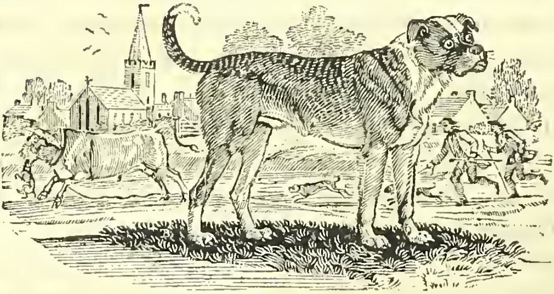
* Five of theſe Dogs, that had eſcaped with their trappings, were found in Greenland, and brought to this country a few years ago by one of our ſhips in the fiſhery.

The Dogs of Kamtſchatka are commonly black or white. They are ſtrong, nimble, and active; and are very uſeful in drawing ſledges, the only method of travelling in that dreary country during the winter. They travel with great expedition. Captain King relates, that, during his ſtay there, a courier with diſpatches, drawn by them, performed a journey of 270 miles in leſs than four days.

The ſledges are uſually drawn by five Dogs, four of them yoked two and two abreaſt: The foremoſt acts as a leader to the reſt. The reins being faſtened to a collar round the leading Dog's neck, are of little uſe in directing the pack; the driver depending chiefly upon their obedience to his voice, with which he animates them to proceed.—Great care and attention are conſequently uſed in training up thoſe for leaders, which are more valuable according to their ſteadineſs and docility; the ſum of forty roubles, or ten pounds, being no unuſual price for one of them.——The rider has a crooked ſtick, anſwering the purpoſe both of whip and reins; with which, by ſtriking on the ſnow, he regulates the ſpeed of the Dogs, or ſtops them at his pleaſure. When they are inattentive to their duty, he often chaſtiſes them by throwing it at them. He diſcovers great dexterity in regaining his ſtick, which is the greateſt difficulty attending his ſituation; for if he ſhould happen to loſe it, the Dogs immediately diſcover the circumſtance, and ſeldom fail to ſet off at full ſpeed, and continue to run till their ſtrength is exhauſted, or till the carriage is overturned, and daſhed to pieces, or hurried down a precipice.

* * *

⁂ In December, 1784, a Dog was left by a ſmuggling veſſel near Boomer, on the coaſt of Northumberland. Finding himſelf deſerted, he began to worry Sheep; and did ſo much damage, that he became the terror of the country within a circuit of above twenty miles. We are aſſured, that when he caught a Sheep, he bit a hole in its right ſide, and after eating the tallow about the kidneys, left it: Several of them, thus lacerated, were found alive by the ſhepherds; and being taken proper care of, ſome of them recovered, and afterwards had lambs. From his delicacy in this reſpect, the deſtruction he made may in ſome meaſure be conceived; as it may be ſuppoſed, that the fat of one Sheep in a day would hardly ſatisfy his hunger.—The farmers were ſo much alarmed by his depredations, that various means were uſed for his deſtruction. They frequently purſued him with Hounds, Greyhounds, &c.; but when the Dogs came up with him, he laid down on his back, as if ſupplicating for mercy; and in that poſition they never hurt him: He therefore laid quietly, taking his reſt till the hunters approached, when he made off, without being followed by the Hounds, till they were again excited to the purſuit, which always terminated unſucceſsfully. And it is worthy of notice, that he was one day purſued from Howick to upwards of thirty miles diſtance; but returned thither, and killed Sheep the ſame evening.—His conſtant reſidence, during the day, was upon a rock, on the Heugh-hill, near Howick, where he had a view of four roads that approached it; and in March, 1785, after many fruitleſs attempts, he was at laſt ſhot there.



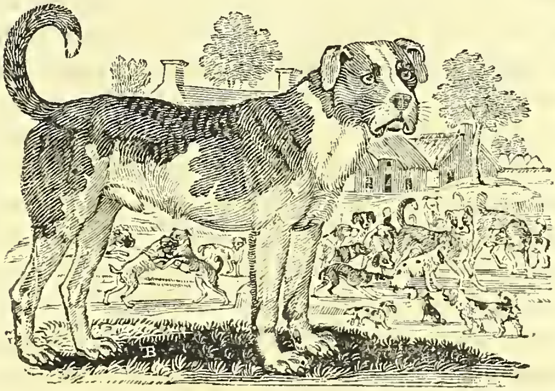
THE BULL-DOG

is the fierceſt of all the Dog kind, and is probably the moſt courageous creature in the world. It is low in ſtature, but very ſtrong and muſcular. Its noſe is ſhort; and the under jaw projects beyond the upper, which gives it a fierce and unpleaſing aſpect.—Its courage in attacking the Bull is well known: Its fury in ſeizing, and its invincible obſtinacy in maintaining its hold, are truly aſtoniſhing. It always aims at the front; and generally faſtens upon the lip, the tongue, the eye, or ſome part of the face; where it hangs, in ſpite of every effort of the Bull to diſengage himſelf.

The uncommon ardour of theſe Dogs in fighting will be beſt illuſtrated by the following fact, related by an eye-witneſs; which at the ſame time corroborates, in ſome degree, that wonderful account of the Dogs of Epirus, given by Elian, and quoted by Dr Goldſmith in his hiſtory of the Dog:—Some years ago, at a bull-baiting in the North of England, when that barbarous cuſtom was very common, a young man, confident of the courage of his Dog, laid ſome trifling wagers, that he would, at ſeparate times, cut off all the four feet of his Dog; and that, after every amputation, it would attack the Bull. The cruel experiment was tried; and the Dog continued to ſeize the Bull as eagerly as if he had been perfectly whole.

Of late years, this inhuman cuſtom of baiting the Bull has been almoſt entirely laid aſide in the North of England; and, conſequently, there are now few of this kind of Dogs to be ſeen.

As the Bull-Dog always makes his attack without barking, it is very dangerous to approach him alone, without the greateſt precaution.



THE MASTIFF

is much larger and ſtronger than the Bull-Dog; its ears are more pendulous; its lips are large and looſe; its aſpect is ſullen and grave, and its bark loud and terrific.— He ſeems every way formed for the important truſt of guarding and ſecuring the valuable property committed to his care. Houſes, gardens, yards, &c. are ſafe from depredations whilſt in his cuſtody. Confined during the day, as ſoon as the gates are locked, he is left to range at full liberty: He then goes round the premiſſes, examines every part of them, and by loud barkings gives notice that he is ready to defend his charge.

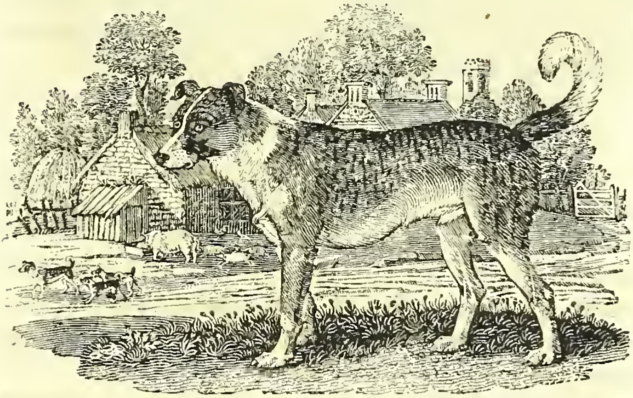
Dr Caius, in his curious treatiſe on Britiſh Dogs, tells us, that three of theſe animals were reckoned a match for a Bear, and four for a Lion.

We have a curious account, recorded in Stow's Annals, of an engagement between three Maſtiffs and a Lion, in the preſence of James the Firſt. " One of the Dogs being put into the den, was ſoon diſabled by the Lion; which took it by the head and neck, and dragged it about: Another Dog was then let looſe, and ſerved in the ſame manner: But the third being put in, immediately ſeized the Lion by the lip, and held him for a conſiderable time; till being ſeverely torn by his claws, the Dog was obliged to quit its hold; and the Lion, greatly exhauſted in the conflict, refuſed to renew the engagement; but taking a ſudden leap over the Dogs, fled into the interior part of his den. Two of the Dogs ſoon died of their wounds: The laſt ſurvived, and was taken great care of by the king's ſon; who ſaid, " he that had fought with the king of beaſts, ſhould never after fight with any inferior creature."

The Maſtiffs of Great-Britain were noted in the time of the Roman emperors; who appointed an officer, whoſe ſole buſineſs it was to breed, and ſend from hence, ſuch as would prove equal to the combats of the amphitheatre.

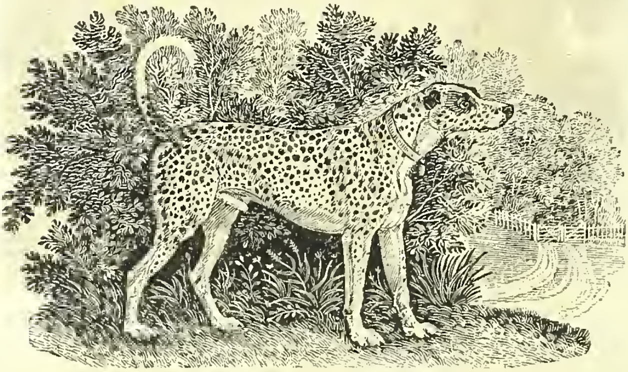
The following anecdote will ſhew, that the Maſtiff, conſcious of its ſuperior ſtrength, knows how to chaſtiſe the impertinence of an inferior:—A large Dog of this kind, belonging to the late M. Ridley, eſq; of Heatton, near Newcaſtle, being frequently moleſted by a Mongrel, and teazed by its continual barking, at laſt took it up in his mouth by the back, and with great compoſure dropped it over the quay into the river, without doing any farther injury to an enemy ſo much his inferior.

The Maſtiff, in its pure and unmixed ſtate, is now ſeldom to be met with. The generality of Dogs diſtinguiſhed by that name, ſeem to be compounded of the Bull-Dog, Daniſh Maſtiff, and the Ban-Dog.



THE BAN-DOG

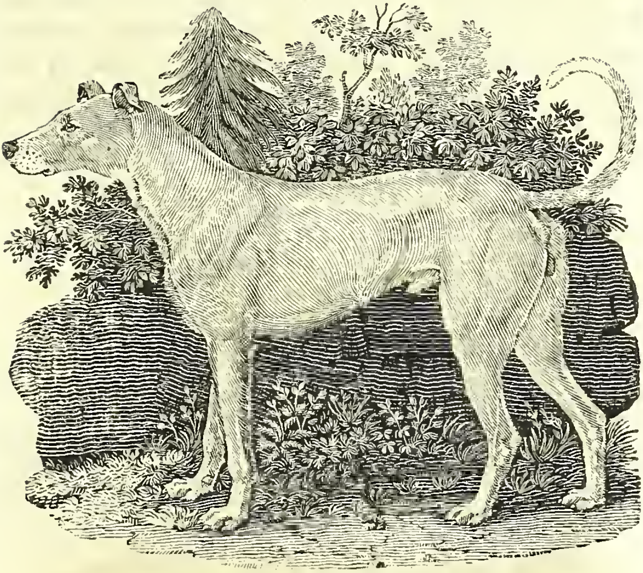
is a variety of this fierce tribe, not often to be ſeen at preſent. It is lighter, ſmaller, more active and vigilant, than the Maſtiff, but not ſo powerful; its noſe is ſmaller; and it poſſeſſes, in ſome degree, the ſcent of the Hound; its hair is rougher, and generally of a yellowiſh-grey, ſtreaked with ſhades of a black or brown colour. It does not invariably, like the preceding kinds, attack its adverſary in front; but frequently ſeizes cattle by the flank. It attacks with eagerneſs; and its bite is keen and dangerous.



THE DALMATIAN OR COACH DOG

has been erroneouſly called the *Daniſh Dog;* and, by M. Buffon, the *Harrier of Bengal;* but for what reaſon it is difficult to aſcertain, as its incapacity of ſcenting is ſufficient to deſtroy all affinity to any Dog employed in the purſuit of the Hare.

It is very common in this country at preſent; and is frequently kept in genteel houſes, as an elegant attendant on a carriage.—We do not, however, admire the cruel practice of depriving the poor animal of its ears, in order to encreaſe its beauty: A practice ſo general, that we do not remember ever to have ſeen one of theſe Dogs unmutilated in that way.



The Irish GREYHOUND

is the largeſt of the Dog kind, and its appearance the moſt beautiful and majeſtic.——It is only to be found in Ireland, where it was formerly of great uſe in clearing that country from Wolves.—It is now extremely rare, and is kept rather for ſhow than uſe, being equally unſerviceable for hunting either the Stag, the Fox, or the Hare.

Theſe Dogs are about three feet high, generally of a white or cinnamon colour, and made ſomewhat like a Greyhound, but more robuſt: Their aſpect is mild, and their diſpoſition gentle and peaceable: Their ſtrength is ſo great, that in combat the Maſtiff or Bull-Dog is far from being equal to them. They moſtly ſeize their antagoniſts by the back, and ſhake them to death, which their great ſize generally enables them to do with eaſe.

M. Buffon ſuppoſes the *Great Daniſh Dog* to be only a variety of the Iriſh Greyhound.——Next to this, in ſize and ſtrength, is

THE SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GREYHOUND, OR WOLF-DOG;

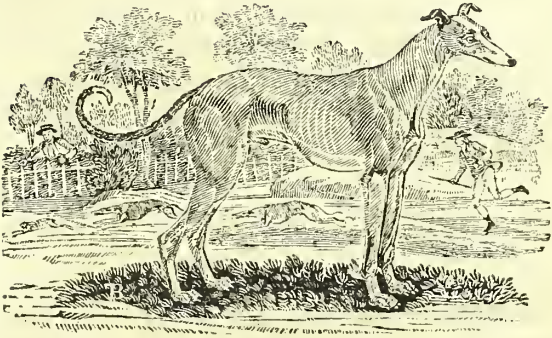
which was formerly uſed by the chieftains of that country in their *grand hunting parties*.—One of them, which we ſaw ſome years ago, was a large, powerful, fierce-looking Dog; its ears were pendulous, and its eyes half hid in the hair; its body was ſtrong and muſcular, and covered with harſh, wiry, reddiſh hair, mixt with white.

THE GAZEHOUND

was ſomewhat ſimilar to the Greyhound; and, like that animal, hunted only by the eye. It was formerly in great repute, but is now unknown to us. It was uſed in hunting either the Fox, the Hare, or the Stag. It would ſelect from the reſt the fatteſt Deer, purſue it by the eye, and though it ſhould rejoin the herd, would infallibly fix upon the ſame, and purſue it till taken.

THE LYEMMER,

ſo called from its being led in a thong, and ſlipped at the game.—Dr Caius informs us, that it hunted both by the ſcent and ſight; and, in its form, was between the Hound and the Greyhound.—It is now unknown to us.

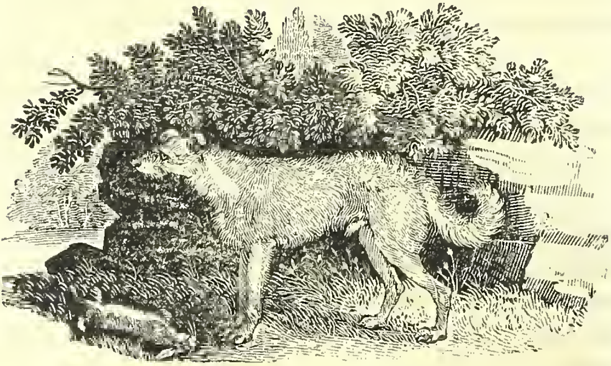


THE GREYHOUND,

M. Buffon ſuppoſes to be the Iriſh Greyhound, rendered thinner and more delicate by the difference of climate and culture: But whatever truth there may be in the fanciful arrangements of that ingenious author, there is an evident ſimilarity of form in all of thoſe juſt mentioned; particularly in the depth of the cheſt, in the length of the legs, and in the ſmallneſs of the muzzle.

The Greyhound is the fleeteſt of all Dogs, and can outrun every animal of the chaſe; but as it wants the faculty of ſcenting, it only follows by the eye.—It was formerly held in ſuch eſtimation, as to be conſidered the peculiar companion of gentlemen; and, by the foreſt laws of king Canute, it was enacted, that no perſon under that degree ſhould preſume to keep a Greyhound.

The *Small Italian Greyhound* is not above half the ſize, but perfectly ſimilar in form. Its ſhape is exquiſitely beautiful and delicate.—It is not common in this country, the climate being too rigorous for the extreme delicacy of its conſtitution.



THE LURCHER

is leſs and ſhorter than the Greyhound, and its limbs ſtronger: Its body is covered with a rough coat of hair, moſt commonly of a pale-yellow colour; its aſpect is ſullen; and its habits, from whence it derives its name, are dark and cunning.

As this Dog poſſeſſes the advantage of a fine ſcent, it is often employed in killing Hares and Rabbits in the night time. When taken to the warren, it ſteals out with the utmoſt precaution, watches and ſcents the Rabbits while they are feeding, and darts upon them without barking or making the leaſt noiſe. One of them will ſingly make incredible havock in a ſhort time; and is ſo trained, as to bring its booty to its maſter, who waits in ſome convenient place to receive it *.—They are ſo deſtructive, and have been ſo often employed in illicit prac-

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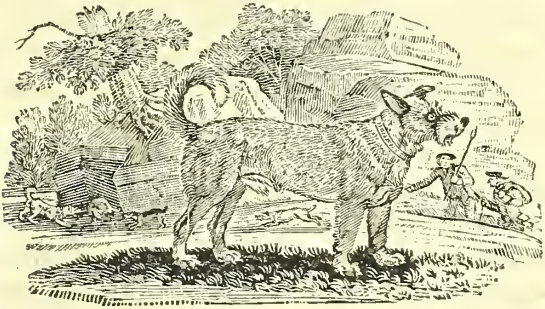
* We have ſeen a Dog and Bitch of this kind in the poſſeſſion of a man, who had formerly uſed them for the purpoſe above deſcribed. He declared, that he could at that time procure in an evening as many Rabbits with them as he could carry home.

tices, that they are now, with great propriety, proſcribed; and the breed is almoſt extinct.

Another Dog of this family, formerly in uſe, but now only known to us by its name, is

THE TUMBLER;

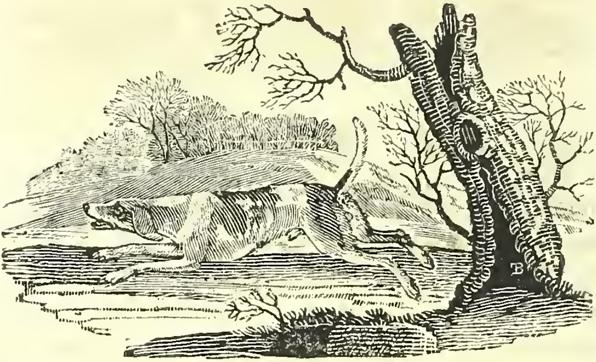
which was ſo called from its cunning manner of taking Rabbits and other game. It did not run directly at them; but, in a careleſs and inattentive manner, tumbled itſelf about till it came within reach of its prey, which it always ſeized by a ſudden ſpring.



THE TERRIER

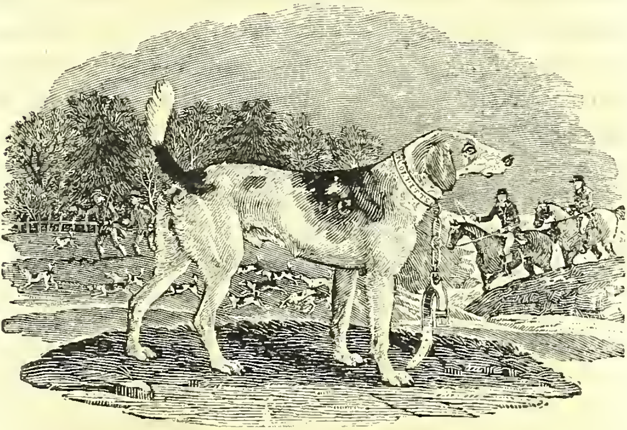
has a moſt acute ſmell, is generally an attendant on every pack of Hounds, and is very expert in forcing Foxes or other game out of their coverts. It is the determined enemy of all the vermin kind; ſuch as Weaſels, Foumarts, Badgers, Rats, Mice, &c. It is fierce, keen, and hardy; and, in its encounters with the Badger, ſometimes meets with very ſevere treatment, which it ſuſtains with great courage and fortitude: A well-trained veteran Dog frequently proves more than a match for that hard-bitten animal.

There are two kinds of Terriers,—the one rough, ſhort-legged, long-backed, very ſtrong, and moſt commonly of a black or yellowiſh colour, mixed with white; the other is ſmooth, ſleek, and beautifully formed, having a ſhorter body, and more ſprightly appearance: It is generally of a reddiſh-brown colour, or black, with tanned legs; and is ſimilar to the rough Terrier in diſpoſition and faculties, but inferior in ſize, ſtrength, and hardineſs.



THE BEAGLE.

Of thoſe Dogs that are kept for the buſineſs of the chaſe in this country, the Beagle is the ſmalleſt, and is only uſed in hunting the Hare. Although far inferior in point of ſpeed to that animal, it follows by the exquiſiteneſs of its ſcent, and traces her footſteps through all her various windings with great exactneſs and perſeverance. Its tones are ſoft and muſical, and add greatly to the pleaſures of the chaſe.

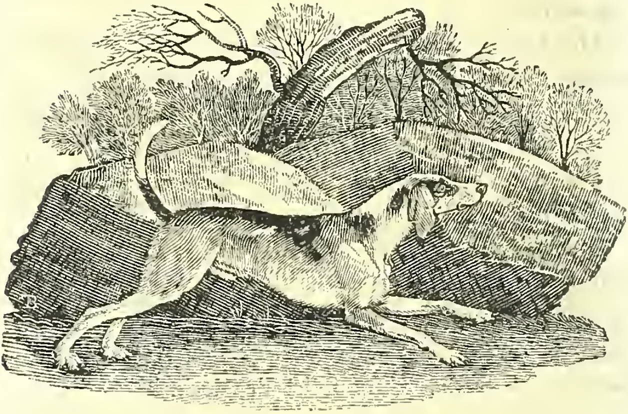


THE HARRIER,

which chiefly differs from the Beagle in being ſomewhat larger, is very nimble and vigorous. It purſues the Hare with the moſt impetuous eagerneſs, and gives her no time to breathe nor double. The moſt eager ſportſmen generally find it ſufficient exerciſe to keep in with their ſpeed.—They exert their voices with great chearfulneſs, and make delightful harmony.

A mixt breed, between this and the large Terrier, forms a ſtrong, active, and hardy Hound, uſed in hunting the Otter.—It is rough, wire-haired, thick-quartered, long-eared, and thin-ſhouldered.

There is reaſon to ſuppoſe, that the Beagle and the Harrier muſt have been introduced into Great-Britain after the Romans became maſters of the iſland; as, before that period, the Britons were occupied in clearing their extenſive foreſts of the various wild beaſts, ſuch as Wild-Boars, Bears, Wolves, &c. with which they abounded; and, for that purpoſe, larger and ſtronger Dogs than the Harrier or the Beagle would be required.



THE FOX-HOUND.

No country in Europe can boaſt of Fox-Hounds equal in ſwiftneſs, ſtrength, or agility, to thoſe of Britain; where the utmoſt attention is paid to their breeding, education, and maintenance. The climate alſo ſeems congenial to their nature; for it has been ſaid, that when Hounds of the Engliſh breed have been ſent into France or other countries, they quickly degenerate, and in ſome degree loſe thoſe qualities for which they were originally ſo admirable.

In England, the attachment to the chaſe is in ſome meaſure conſidered as a trait in the national character; conſequently, it is not to be wondered at, that our Dogs and Horſes ſhould excel all others in that noble diverſion. This propenſity appears to be encreaſing in the nation; and no price ſeems now thought too great for Hounds of known excellence *.

The Fox-Hounds generally preferred are tall, light-made, but ſtrong, and poſſeſſed of great courage, ſpeed, and activity.

The habits and faculties of theſe Dogs are ſo generally known, as to render any deſcription unneceſſary.

Dogs of the ſame kind are alſo trained to the hunting of the Stag and other Deer.

The following anecdote affords a proof of their wonderful ſpirit in ſupporting a continuity of exertion:—

" Many years ſince, a very large Stag was turned out of Whinfield Park, in the county of Weſtmorland; and purſued by the Hounds, till, by fatigue or accident, the whole pack were thrown out, except two ſtaunch and favourite Dogs, which continued the chaſe the greateſt part of the day. The Stag returned to the park from whence he ſet out; and, as his laſt effort, leapt the wall, and expired as ſoon as he had accompliſhed it. One of the Hounds purſued to the wall; but being unable to get over it, laid down, and almoſt immediately expired: The other was alſo found dead at a ſmall diſtance.

" The length of the chaſe is uncertain: But as they were ſeen at Red-kirks, near Annan, in Scotland, diſtant, by the poſt-road, about forty-ſix miles, it is conjectured, that the circuitous and uneven courſe they might be ſuppoſed to take, would not be leſs than *one hundred and twenty miles*.

" To commemorate this fact, the horns of the Stag, which were the largeſt ever ſeen in that part of the country, were placed on a tree of a moſt enormous ſize, in the park, (afterwards called the Hart-horn tree) accompanied with this inſcription:—

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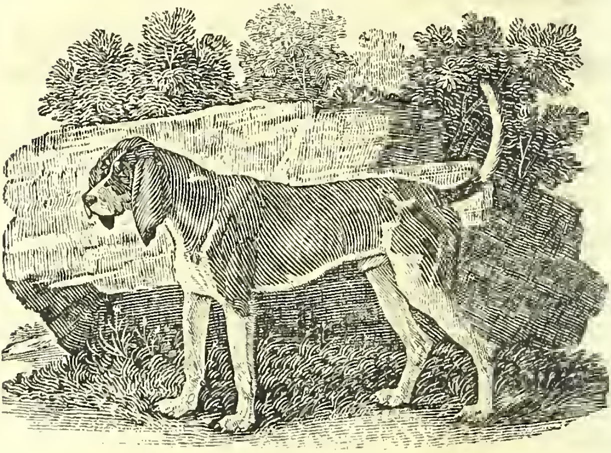
* In 1788, Mr Noel's pack was ſold to Sir Wm Lowther, bart. for 1000 guineas.

"Hercules kill'd Hart o'Greece;
"And Hart o'Greece kill'd Hercules."

"The horns have been ſince removed; and are now at Julian's Bower, in the ſame county."



THE OLD ENGLISH HOUND

is deſcribed by Whitaker, in his Hiſtory of Mancheſter, as the original breed of this iſland, uſed by the ancient Britons in the chaſe of the larger kinds of game, with which their country abounded.

This valuable Hound is diſtinguiſhed by its great ſize and ſtrength. Its body is long, its cheſt deep, its ears long and ſweeping, and the tone of its voice is peculiarly deep and mellow.—From the particular formation of its organs, or from the extraordinary moiſture that always adheres to its noſe and lips, or perhaps from ſome other unknown cauſe, it is endued with the moſt exquiſite ſenſe of ſmelling, and can often diſtinguiſh the ſcent an hour after the lighter Beagles have given it up. Their ſlowneſs alſo diſpoſes them to receive the directions of the huntſman: But as they are able to hunt a cold ſcent, they are too apt to make it ſo, by their want of ſpeed, and tedious exactneſs.

Theſe Dogs were once common in every part of this iſland, and were formerly much larger than at preſent.

The breed, which has been gradually declining, and its ſize ſtudiouſly diminiſhed by a mixture of other kinds in order to increaſe its ſpeed, is now almoſt extinct.

It ſeems to have been accurately deſcribed by Shakeſpeare, in the following lines:—

"My Hounds are bred out of the Spartan kind,
"So flew'd, ſo ſanded; and their heads are hung
"With ears that ſweep away the morning dew;
"Crook-knee'd and dewlap'd, like Theſſalian bulls;
"Slow in purſuit; but match'd in mouth like bells,
"Each under each."————

Beſides theſe, there is a variety called the *Kibble-Hound*, produced by a mixture of the Beagle and the Old Engliſh Hound.

THE BLOOD-HOUND

was in great requeſt with our anceſtors; and as it was remarkable for the fineneſs of its ſcent, it was frequently employed in recovering game that had eſcaped wounded from the hunter. It could follow, with great certainty, the footſteps of a man to a conſiderable diſtance: And in barbarous and uncivilized times, when the thief or murderer had fled, this uſeful creature would trace him through the thickeſt and moſt ſecret coverts; nor would it ceaſe its purſuit till it had taken the felon. For this reaſon, there was a law in Scotland, that whoever denied entrance to one of theſe Dogs, in purſuit of ſtolen goods, ſhould be deemed an acceſſary.

Blood-Hounds were formerly uſed in certain diſtricts lying between England and Scotland, which were much infeſted by robbers and murderers; and a tax was laid upon the inhabitants for keeping and maintaining a certain number of them. But, as the arm of juſtice is now extended over every part of the country, and there are no ſecret receſſes where villainy may lay concealed, theſe ſervices are no longer neceſſary.

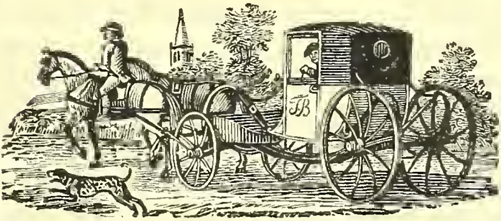
In Scotland, it was diſtinguiſhed by the name of the *Sleuth-Hound.*

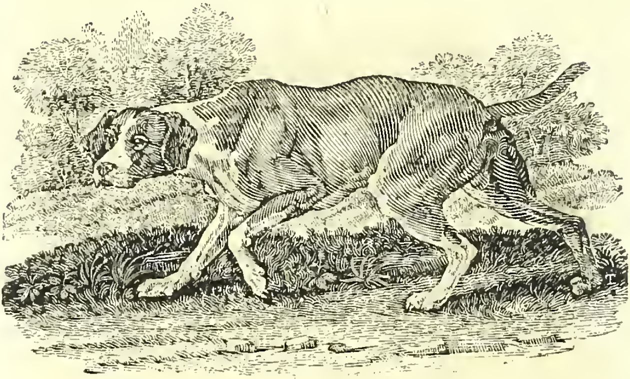
Some few of theſe Dogs are ſtill kept in the ſouthern part of the kingdom, and are uſed in purſuit of Deer that have been previouſly wounded by a ſhot to draw blood, the ſcent of which enables them to purſue with moſt unerring ſteadineſs.—They are ſometimes employed in diſcovering deer-ſtealers; whom they infallibly trace by the blood that iſſues from the wounds of their victims. —-They are alſo ſaid to be kept in convents, ſituated in the lonely and mountainous countries of Switzerland, both as a guard to the ſacred manſion, as well as to find out the bodies of men that have been unfortunately loſt in croſſing thoſe wild and dreary tracts.

The Blood-Hound is taller than the Old Engliſh Hound, moſt beautifully formed, and ſuperior to every other kind in activity, ſpeed, and ſagacity.—They ſeldom bark, except in the chaſe; and are commonly of a reddiſh or brown colour.

Somervile thus beautifully deſcribes their mode of purſuing the nightly ſpoiler:—

"Soon the ſagacious brute, his curling tail
"Flouriſh'd in air, low bending, plies around
"His buſy noſe, the ſteaming vapour ſnuffs
"Inquiſitive, nor leaves one turf untry'd,
"Till, conſcious of the recent ſtains, his heart
"Beats quick; his ſnuffling noſe, his active tail,
"Atteſt his joy: Then with deep-op'ning mouth,
"That makes the welkin tremble, he proclaims
"Th' audacious felon: Foot by foot he marks
"His winding way, while all the liſt'ning crowd
"Applaud his reas'nings: O'er the wat'ry ford,
"Dry ſandy heaths, and ſtony barren hills;
"O'er beaten paths, with men and beaſts diſtain'd,
"Unerring he purſues, till at the cot
"Arriv'd, and ſeizing by his guilty throat
"The caitiff vile, redeems the captive prey:
"So exquiſitely delicate his ſenſe!"





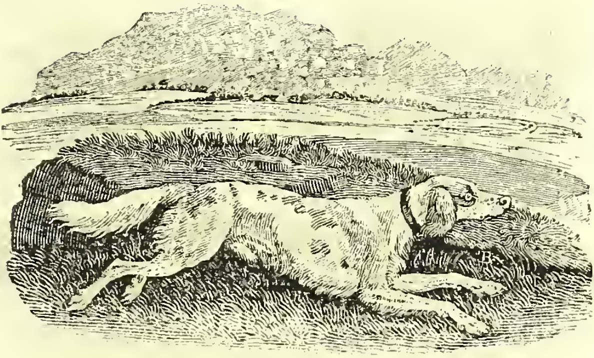
THE SPANISH POINTER

is of foreign origin, as its name ſeems to imply; but it is now naturalized in this country, which has long been famous for Dogs of this kind; the greateſt attention being paid to preſerve the breed in its utmoſt purity.

This Dog is remarkable for the aptneſs and facility with which it receives inſtruction. It may be ſaid to be almoſt ſelf-taught; whilſt the Engliſh Pointer requires the greateſt care and attention in breaking and training to the ſport. The Spaniſh Pointer, however, is not ſo durable and hardy, nor ſo able to undergo the fatigues of an extenſive range. It is chiefly employed in finding partridges, pheaſants, &c. either for the gun or the net.

It is ſaid, that an Engliſh nobleman (Robert Dudley, duke of Northumberland) was the firſt that broke a Setting-Dog to the net.

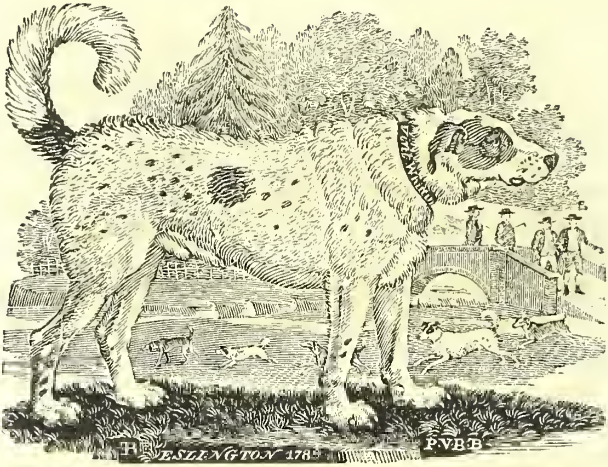
The Setting-Dogs, now uſed by ſportſmen, are generally of a mixt breed, between the Engliſh and Spaniſh Pointer.



THE ENGLISH SETTER

is a hardy, active, handſome Dog.—Its ſcent is exquiſite; and it ranges with great ſpeed and wonderful perſeverance. Its ſagacity in diſcovering the various kinds of game, and its caution in approaching them, are truly aſtoniſhing. But as the uſes of this valuable Dog are ſo well known, we will conclude with the following beautiful quotation from Somervile:—

> " When autumn ſmiles, all-beauteous in decay,
> " And paints each chequer'd grove with various hues,
> " My Setter ranges in the new-ſhorn fields,
> " His noſe in air erect; from ridge to ridge
> " Panting he bounds, his quarter'd ground divides
> " In equal intervals, nor careleſs leaves
> " One inch untry'd: At length the tainted gales
> " His noſtrils wide inhale; quick joy elates
> " His beating heart, which, aw'd by diſcipline
> " Severe, he dares not own, but cautious creeps,
> " Low-cow'ring, ſtep by ſtep; at laſt attains
> " His proper diſtance; there he ſtops at once,
> " And points with his inſtructive noſe upon
> " The trembling prey."————



THE NEWFOUNDLAND DOG.

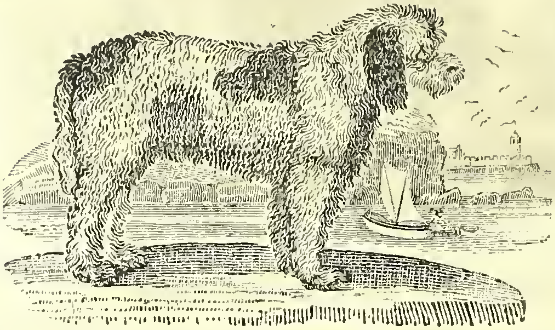
The drawing of this Dog was taken from a very fine one at Eſlington, in the county of Northumberland, the ſeat of Sir H. G. Liddell, bart.---Its dimenſions were as follow:—From its noſe to the end of its tail, it meaſured ſix feet two inches; the length of its tail, one foot ten inches; from one fore foot right over its ſhoulders to the other, five feet ſeven inches; girt behind the ſhoulder, three feet two inches; round its head over its ears, two feet; round the upper part of its fore leg, nine inches and a half. It was web-footed, could ſwim extremely faſt, dive with great eaſe, and bring up any thing from the bottom of the water. It was naturally fond of fiſh; and ate raw trouts, or other ſmall fiſh, out of the nets.

This breed of Dogs was originally brought from the country of which they bear the name, where their great ſtrength and docility render them extremely uſeful to the ſettlers on thoſe coaſts, who uſe them in bringing down wood from the interior parts of the country to the ſea-ſide: Three or four of them yoked to a ſledge, will draw two or three hundred weight of wood piled upon it, for ſeveral miles, with great eaſe: They are not attended with a driver, nor any perſon to guide them; but after having delivered their loading, they return immediately to the woods, where they are accuſtomed to be fed with dried fiſh, &c.

The extraordinary ſagacity of theſe Dogs, and their attachment to their maſters, render them highly valuable in particular ſituations.

During a ſevere ſtorm, in the winter of 1789, a ſhip, belonging to Newcaſtle, was loſt near Yarmouth; and a Newfoundland Dog alone eſcaped to ſhore, bringing in his mouth the captain's pocket-book. He landed amidſt a number of people, ſeveral of whom in vain endeavoured to take it from him. The ſagacious animal, as if ſenſible of the importance of the charge, which in all probability was delivered to him by his periſhing maſter, at length leaped fawningly againſt the breaſt of a man, who had attracted his notice among the crowd, and delivered the book to him. The Dog immediately returned to the place where he had landed, and watched with great attention for every thing that came from the wrecked veſſel, ſeizing them, and endeavouring to bring them to land.

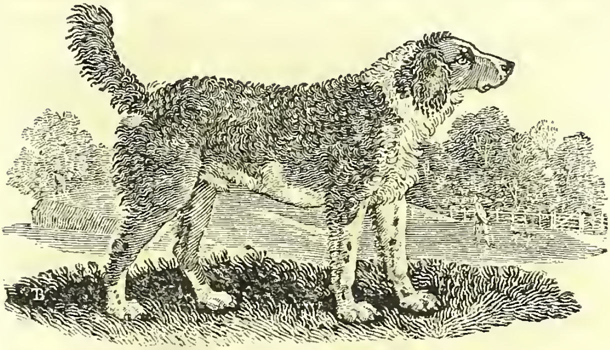
The following is another inſtance of their great docility, and ſtrength of obſervation:—A gentleman walking by the ſide of the river Tyne, and obſerving, on the oppoſite ſide, a child fall into the water, gave notice to his Dog, which immediately jumped in, ſwam over, and, catching hold of the child with its mouth, brought it ſafe to land.



THE LARGE ROUGH WATER-DOG

is web-footed, ſwims with great eaſe, and is uſed in hunting ducks and other aquatic birds.—From its aptneſs to fetch and carry, it is frequently kept on board of ſhips, for the purpoſe of recovering any thing that has fallen overboard; and is likewiſe uſeful in taking up birds that are ſhot, and drop into the ſea.

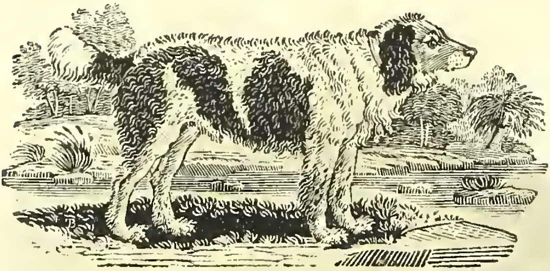
There is a variety much ſmaller.——They are both remarkable for their long and ſhaggy coat, which frequently incommodes them by growing over their eyes.



THE LARGE WATER-SPANIEL.

The drawing of this beautiful animal was made from one of the fineſt of its kind, in the poſſeſſion of J. E. Blackett, eſq; of Newcaſtle upon Tyne.

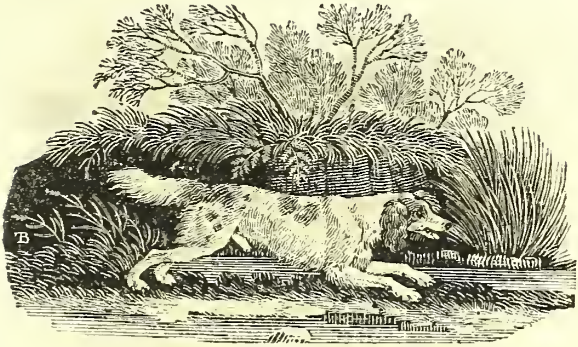
This kind of Dog is valuable for its great docility and attachment to its maſter. It receives inſtructions with readineſs, and obeys with uncommon alacrity.—Its form is elegant, its hair beautifully curled or criſped, its ears long, and its aſpect mild and ſagacious.——It is fond of the water, and ſwims well. It is chiefly uſed in diſcovering the haunts of wild-ducks and other water fowl; and alſo in finding birds that have been ſhot or diſabled. —It is probably the *Finder*, deſcribed by Caius.



The Small WATER-SPANIEL

is ſimilar to the other in form, habits, and diſpoſition; and its capacity for receiving inſtruction is equally good. With looks of extreme attention and ſenſibility, it obſerves the motions of its maſter, and catches the well-known ſignal with amazing promptitude.

The various tricks which theſe Dogs are ſometimes taught to perform, ſeem more like the effect of reaſoning powers, than of undiſcerning inſtinct.



THE SPRINGER, OR COCKER,

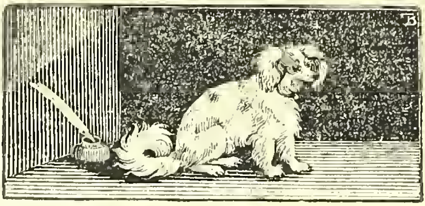
is lively, active, and pleaſant; an unwearied purſuer of its game; and very expert in raiſing woodcocks and ſnipes from their haunts in woods and marſhes, through which it ranges with amazing perſeverance.

Of the ſame kind is that beautiful little Dog, which, in this country, is well known under the appellation of *King Charles's Dog;* the favourite and conſtant companion of that monarch, who was generally attended by ſeveral of them.—It is ſtill preſerved as an idle but innocent companion.—Its long ears, curled hair, and web-feet, evidently point out its alliance with the more uſeful and active kind laſt mentioned.

Similar to this, but ſmaller, is the *Pyrame-Dog.*—It is generally black, with reddiſh legs; and above each eye is a ſpot of the ſame colour.

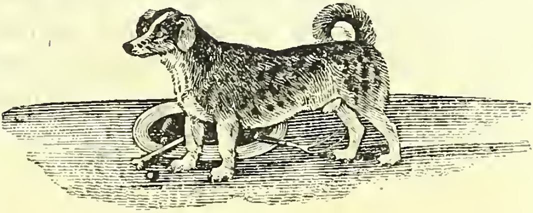
Still farther removed, we have the *Shock-Dog:* A diminutive creature, almoſt hid in the great quantity of its hair, which covers it from head to foot.

Another variety is the *Lion-Dog;* ſo called from the ſhaggy hair which covers the head and all the fore part of the body; whilſt the hinder part is quite ſmooth, ſaving a tuft of hair at the end of the tail.—This ſpecies is become extremely rare.



THE COMFORTER

is a moſt elegant little animal, and is generally kept by the ladies as an attendant of the toilette or the drawing-room.—It is very ſnappiſh, ill-natured, and noiſy; and does not readily admit the familiarity of ſtrangers.



THE TURNSPIT

is generally long-bodied, has ſhort crooked legs, its tail curled upon its back, and is frequently ſpotted with black upon a blue-grey ground. It is peculiar in the colour of its eyes; the ſame Dog often having the iris of one eye black, and the other white.

It is a bold, vigilant, and ſpirited little Dog. At preſent, however, its ſervices ſeem but little attended to; a more certain method of doing the buſineſs of the ſpit having ſuperſeded the labours of this induſtrious animal.

THE PUG-DOG,

in outward appearance, is every way formed like the Bull-Dog; but much ſmaller, and its tail curled upon its back.—It was formerly very common in many parts of England; however, at preſent, it is rarely to be met with.—Although it has no longer its admirers here, Mrs Piozzi informs us, that ſhe ſaw great numbers at Padua, in Italy; and that it ſtill maintains its place in the favour of the fair-ones of that country.

From theſe, and a mixture of others, proceeds a numberleſs variety of Meſſets, Lap-Dogs, Dancers, Waps, Mongrels, and compounds without end.

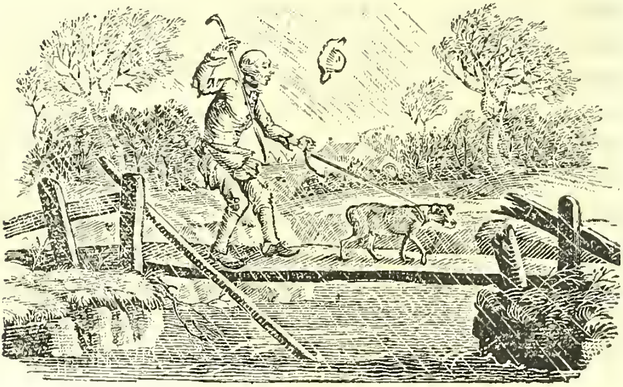
That all theſe, however divided, compoſe one general family, is apparent, from the facility with which they intermix, produce, and re-produce. In all of them the ſame attachment to mankind, the ſame pliant and humble diſpoſition, ſubmitting with patience to the various indignities to which they are expoſed by their dependant ſituation, is eminently obſervable. Even thoſe that, by accident or neglect, have been abandoned, and become wild, when taken home, are eaſily reclaimed by kindneſs and attention: They quickly become familiar, and continue faithfully attached to their maſters.—Multitudes of theſe are to be found in South-America, which have ſprung from thoſe taken thither by the Europeans. They breed in holes in the ground, are formed ſomewhat like a Greyhound, have erect ears, are very vigilant, and excellent in the chaſe.

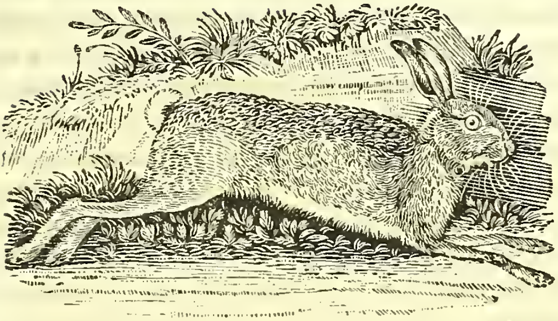
To mention ſome of the more common inſtances of this creature's ſagacity, by way of elucidating its general character, may not be amiſs; and amongſt theſe, its care in directing the ſteps of the blind man is not the leaſt worthy of notice. There are few who have not ſeen an unfortunate object of this deſcription, led by his Dog, through the various paſſages of a populous town, to the accuſtomed place where he ſits to ſupplicate the contributions of paſſengers. It may ſometimes be ſeen to ſtop at particular houſes, to receive the morſel from the hand of charity, or pick from the ground the money thrown out to relieve its miſerable owner. When the day is paſſed, it conducts him home again; and gratefully receives, as the reward of its ſervices, the ſcanty pittance which poverty and wretchedneſs can beſtow.

Dogs will ſometimes imitate the actions of their maſters, will open a door that is faſtened with a latch, or pull a bell, where they are deſirous of gaining admittance.—Faber mentions one, belonging to a nobleman of the Medici family, which always attended at its maſter's table, took from him his plates, and brought him others; and if he wanted wine, would carry it to him, in a glaſs placed upon a ſilver plate, which it held in its mouth, without ſpilling the ſmalleſt drop. The ſame Dog would alſo hold the ſtirrups in its teeth, whilſt its maſter was mounting his horſe.

That Dogs are capable of mutual attachment, is evident, from the well-known ſtory of the Dog at St Alban's; which, being left by its maſter at an inn there till he returned from London, and being ill-treated by a large Dog belonging to the houſe, ſtole privately off. It ſoon returned with a friend, that was much larger and ſtronger than itſelf; and both fell upon the aggreſſor, and puniſhed him ſeverely for his cruelty to a ſtranger.

There are ſeveral peculiarities common to all animals of the Dog kind, briefly mentioned by Linnæus, with which we ſhall conclude its hiſtory; the principal of which are as follow:—The Dog is carnivorous; its ſtomach digeſts bones; it eats graſs for a vomit; voids its urine ſideways, and commonly where other Dogs have done ſo before; ſmells at a ſtranger; ſcarcely ever ſweats, but lolls out its tongue when hot; remembers injuries done to it; is ſubject to the hydrophobia; its ſenſe of hearing very quick; when aſleep, is ſuppoſed to dream; goes with young ſixty-three days, and brings forth from four to eight at one time. It barks at ſtrange Dogs, ſnaps at a ſtone thrown at it, howls at certain muſical notes; when about to lie down, frequently goes round the place; fawns at the approach of its maſter, and will not patiently ſuffer any one to ſtrike him; runs before him on a journey, often going over the ſame ground; on coming to croſs ways, ſtops, looks back, and waits to obſerve which of them he takes; ſits up and begs; and, when it has committed a theft, ſlinks away, with its tail between its legs; is an enemy to beggars and ill-looking people, and attacks them without the leaſt provocation; is alſo ſaid to be ſick at the approach of bad weather.—We cannot, however, agree with the learned naturaliſt, when he aſſerts, that the male puppies reſemble the Dog, and the female the Bitch; or that it is a character common to the whole ſpecies, that the tail always bends to the left ſide. To theſe we may add, as equally void of foundation, a remark of M. Buffon, that a female Hound, covered with a Dog of her own kind, has been known to produce a mixed race, conſiſting of Hounds and Terriers.—We barely mention theſe, to ſhew, that too much caution cannot be uſed in forming general characters or ſyſtematic arrangements; and we leave it to the experience of the moſt inattentive obſerver to detect ſuch palpable abſurdities.





THE HARE.

THIS harmleſs and inoffenſive animal, deſtitute of every means of defence, and ſurrounded on all ſides by its enemies, would ſoon be utterly extirpated, if Nature, ever kind and provident, had not endowed it with faculties, by which it is frequently enabled to evade their purſuit.

Fearful of every danger, and attentive to every alarm, the Hare is continually upon the watch; and being provided with very long ears, moveable at pleaſure, and eaſily directed to every quarter, is warned of the moſt diſtant approaches of danger. Its eyes are large and prominent, adapted to receive the rays of light on every ſide, and give notice of more immediate alarms. To theſe may be added its great ſwiftneſs, by which it ſoon leaves moſt of its purſuers far behind.—The hind are much longer than the fore legs, and are furniſhed with ſtrong muſcles, which give the Hare a ſingular advantage in running up a hill; and, as if ſenſible of its powers in this reſpect, it is always obſerved to fly towards riſing ground when firſt ſtarted.

Thus formed for eſcape, the Hare might be ſuppoſed to enjoy a ſtate of tolerable ſecurity; but as every rapacious creature is its enemy, it is ſeldom permitted to live out its natural term. Dogs and Foxes purſue it by inſtinct; Wild-Cats, and Weaſels of all kinds, catch and devour it; birds of prey are ſtill more dangerous enemies; whilſt man, far more powerful than all, makes uſe of every artifice to obtain an animal which conſtitutes one of the numerous delicacies of his table.—If we were to enumerate the various ſtratagems which ingenuity has ſuggeſted to circumvent this perſecuted creature, we would willingly omit the notable achievements and gallant exploits of the chaſe; which, to a cool and diſpaſſionate obſerver, ſeem to demand a nobler game.

> "Poor is the triumph o'er the timid Hare."

Another remarkable means of ſafety to the Hare is its colour, which being ſimilar to the ground where it ſits, ſecures it from the ſight of its enemies; and, as a further inſtance of the care of Providence in the preſervation of its creatures, theſe, as well as ſome other animals, in more northern regions, are obſerved to change their colour, and become perfectly white during winter, which renders them leſs conſpicuous in the ſnow. Some rare inſtances occur, of white Hares being met with in Great-Britain.

The Hare is very prolific, and breeds three or four times in the year. The females go with young thirty days, and generally bring forth three or four at a litter. The rutting ſeaſon begins in February.

During the day, Hares ſleep or repoſe in their ſeats, and ſeldom remove from them: The night is the ſeaſon when they go about in ſearch of food; and they are ſure to return to their forms or ſeats by the ſame paths which they took in leaving them.

> " 'Tis inſtinct that directs the jealous Hare
> " To chuſe her ſoft abode. With ſtep revers'd,
> " She forms the doubling maze; then, ere the morn
> " Peeps through the clouds, leaps to her cloſe receſs."

The following inſtances of the ſagacity of the Hare in endeavouring to eſcape from its enemies are worthy of notice:—Fouilloux ſays, he has ſeen a Hare ſtart from its form at the ſound of the hunter's horn, run towards a pool of water at a conſiderable diſtance, plunge itſelf in, and ſwim to ſome ruſhes in the middle, where it lay down, and concealed itſelf from the purſuit of the Dogs. He mentions another, which, after running two hours before the Dogs, puſhed a Hare from its ſeat, and took poſſeſſion of it. Others he has ſeen run into a ſheepfold, and lie down among the Sheep; and ſome have effected their eſcape by mounting an old wall, and clapping themſelves down in the midſt of the ivy which covered it.

The fur of the Hare is of great uſe in making hats; for which purpoſe many thouſands of their ſkins are annually imported from Ruſſia.

The Hare was reckoned a great delicacy among the Romans; but was forbidden to the Jews, and held ſacred among the ancient Britons, who religiouſly abſtained from eating it.—We are told, that Boadicea, immediately before her laſt conflict with the Romans, let looſe a Hare ſhe had concealed in her boſom; which, taking what was deemed a fortunate courſe, was looked upon as a good omen.—It is to this day deemed unclean by the Mahometans.

The Hare is found in moſt parts of the world, with very little variety.—Thoſe of North-America are rather leſs than the European. They frequent marſhes and meadows, and when purſued take refuge in hollow trees.

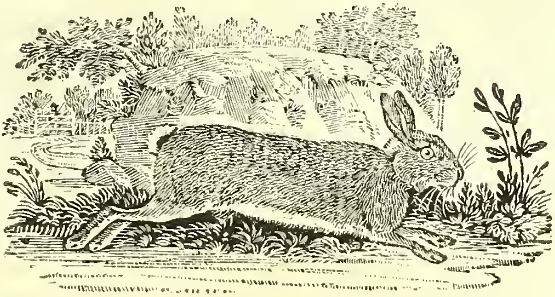
The Alpine HARE

is grey in ſummer, with a ſlight mixture of black and tawny. Its hair is ſoft; its ears ſhorter, and its legs more ſlender, than the common Hare's. In winter, the whole body changes to a ſnowy whiteneſs, except the tips and edges of the ears, which remain black.

This animal lives on the higheſt hills in Scotland, Norway, Lapland, Ruſſia, and Siberia; never deſcends from the mountains, nor mixes with the common Hare, although they abound in the ſame parts.—It does not run faſt; and, when purſued, often takes ſhelter in clefts of rocks. It is eaſily tamed, is very frolicſome, and fond of honey and other ſweets. It changes its colour in September, and reſumes its grey coat in April.—Troops of five or ſix hundred are ſometimes ſeen, which migrate towards the South in ſpring, and return in autumn.

A variety is found in thoſe mountains of Tartary which extend as far as the lake Baikal. It inhabits the middle regions of the hills, among thick woods, and in moiſt places abounding with graſs and herbage. It lives in the crevices of rocks, and ſometimes burrows in the earth lodged between the clefts.—Its voice is a ſharp whiſtle, not unlike the chirping of a ſparrow.

In the autumn, great numbers of them aſſemble together, and collect vaſt quantities of the fineſt herbs, which, when dried, they form into pointed ricks of various ſizes; ſome of them four or five feet in height, and of proportionable bulk. Theſe they place under the ſhelter of an overhanging rock, or pile round the trunks of trees.—By this means, theſe induſtrious little animals lay up a ſtock of winter food, and wiſely provide againſt the rigours of thoſe ſtormy regions; otherwiſe, being prevented by the depth of the ſnow from quitting their retreats in queſt of food, they muſt all inevitably periſh.



THE RABBIT.

NOTWITHSTANDING the great ſimilarity between the Hare and the Rabbit, Nature has placed an inſeparable bar between them, in not allowing them to intermix, to which they mutually diſcover the moſt extreme averſion. Beſides this, there is a wide difference in their habits and propenſities: The Rabbit lives in holes in the earth, where it brings forth its young, and retires from the approach of danger; whilſt the Hare prefers the open fields, and truſts to its ſpeed for ſafety.

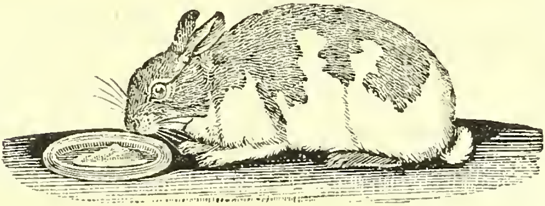
The fecundity of the Rabbit is truly aſtoniſhing. It breeds ſeven times in the year, and generally produces eight young at a time; from which it is calculated, that one pair may increaſe, in the courſe of four years, to the amazing number of 1,274,840: So that, if frequent reductions were not made in various ways, there is reaſon to apprehend they would ſoon exceed the means of their ſupport, and over-run the face of the country. But as their increaſe is great, ſo is the number of their enemies; for, beſides thoſe that are taken for the uſe of man, great numbers are devoured by Foxes, Weaſels, Foumarts, and other beaſts of prey.—In Spain, they formerly increaſed to ſuch a degree, as to become ſo obnoxious, that the inhabitants were obliged to procure Ferrets from Africa to deſtroy them.

The Rabbit is capable of procreating at the age of five or ſix months.—The female goes with young about thirty days. Previous to her bringing forth, ſhe makes a bed with down, that ſhe pulls off her own coat. She never leaves her young but when preſſed with hunger, and returns as ſoon as that is allayed, which ſhe effects with ſurprizing quickneſs. During the time ſhe tends and ſuckles her young, ſhe carefully conceals them from the male, leſt he ſhould devour them; and frequently covers up the mouth of the hole, that her retreat may not be diſcovered.

It lives to the age of eight or nine years, and prefers warm and temperate climates.—Pliny and Ariſtotle mention it as being anciently known only in Greece and Spain: It is now, however, common in various parts of Europe; but in Sweden and other cold countries, it can only be reared in houſes.

It abounds in Great-Britain, where its ſkin forms a very conſiderable article in the manufacture of hats.—— Lincolnſhire, Norfolk, and Cambridgeſhire, are moſt noted for the production of them.

The fleſh of the Rabbit, as well as the Hare, was forbidden to the Jews and Mahometans.



THE DOMESTIC RABBIT

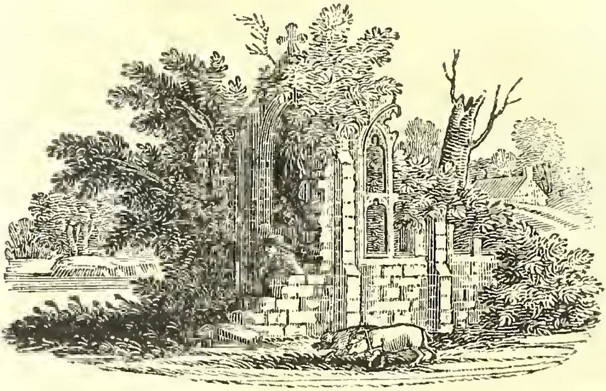
is of various colours,—white, brown, black, and variegated.—It is ſomewhat larger than the wild Rabbit; but its fleſh is not ſo good, being ſofter and more inſipid.—Its food is generally cabbage leaves, colewort, blades of corn, four-dock, and other ſucculent plants; but ſweet ſhort hay, with a little clean oats, make the beſt diet.

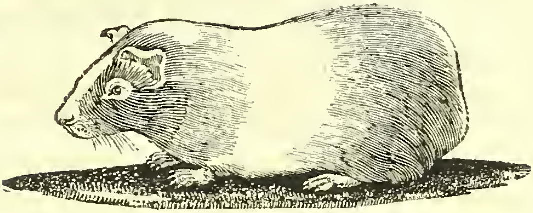
The RABBIT of ANGORA, like the Goat and Sheep of that country, is covered with long hair, which falls down its ſide in wavy curls, and is of a ſilky fineneſs.

Mr Pennant deſcribes a remarkable variety under the name of the *Hooded Rabbit*, which has a double ſkin over its back, into which it can withdraw its head: It likewiſe conceals its fore legs in a part which falls down under its throat. There are ſmall holes in this looſe ſkin on the back, which admit light to the eyes.—The colour of the body is cinereous; that of the head and ears is brown.

A manuſcript account of this animal, with a drawing by Mr G. Edwards, is preſerved in the Britiſh Muſeum.

The Rabbit is not a native of America.—There are great numbers of them in many of the Weſt-India iſlands, which have originated from a ſtock carried thither from Europe.





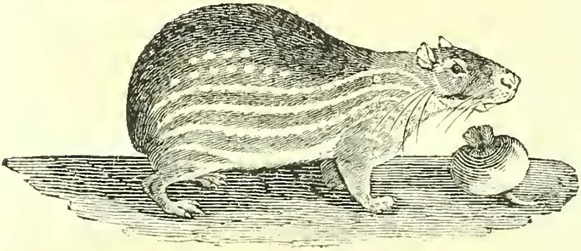
THE GUINEA-PIG, OR RESTLESS CAVY.

THIS little animal, though a native of Brazil, lives and propagates in temperate, and even in cold climates, when protected from the inclemency of the ſeaſons.—Great numbers are kept in a domeſtic ſtate; but for what purpoſe can hardly be determined. They have neither beauty nor utility to recommend them: Their ſkins are of little value; and their fleſh, though eatable, is far from being good. Their habits and diſpoſition are equally unpleaſant and diſguſting: Void of attachment even to their own offspring, they ſuffer them to be devoured the moment they are brought forth, without making the ſmalleſt attempt to defend them. The males frequently deſtroy their own young; and are ſo ſtupid, as to allow themſelves to be killed by Cats, without reſiſtance. They paſs their whole lives in ſleeping, eating, and in the propagation of their ſpecies. They are by nature gentle and tame: They do no miſchief, but ſeem to be equally incapable of good.—Rats are ſaid to avoid the places where they reſide.

The Guinea-Pig is conſiderably leſs than the Rabbit; its upper lip is only half divided; it has two cutting-teeth in each jaw; large and broad ears; its hair is of different colours,—white, varied with orange and black in irregular patches; has no tail; is a reſtleſs animal; feeds on bread, grain, and vegetables; and makes a noiſe like the grunting of a pig.

It is capable of breeding at the age of two months, and produces from four to twelve at one time.

The ſpecies would be innumerable, if many of them were not taken off by various means: Some are killed by Cats; others by the males; and more, both young and old, periſh by the ſeverity of the climate, and want of proper care.



The Spotted CAVY

is about the ſize of a Hare; but its body is much thicker, plumper, and fatter. The colour of the hair on the back is dark-brown, or liver-coloured; it is lighter on the ſides, which are beautifully marked with lines of white ſpots, running in parallel directions from its throat to its rump; thoſe on the upper part of the body are perfectly diſtinct; the belly is white. Its head is large; its ears ſhort and naked; its eyes full, and placed high in its head, near the ears; in the lower part of each jaw, immediately under the eye, it has a remarkably deep ſlit or furrow, which ſeems like the termination of the jaw, and has the appearance of an opening of the mouth; its upper jaw projects beyond the under; it has two ſtrong yellow cutting-teeth in each jaw; its mouth is ſmall, and its upper lip is divided; it has long whiſkers on its lips, and on each ſide of its head, under the ears; its legs are ſhort; it has four toes on the fore feet, and three on the hind; it has no tail.

The Spotted Cavy is a native of South-America, and lives on the banks of rivers in warm and moiſt places. It digs holes in the ground, ſecretes itſelf during the day, and goes out at night in queſt of food.

Its motions are heavy and ungraceful. It runs ſeldom, and with extreme aukwardneſs; ſits frequently upon its poſteriors; and, in that ſituation, ſmooths and dreſſes itſelf with its paws, drawing them over its body with the utmoſt nicety.

It is a cleanly animal, and will not bear the ſmalleſt degree of dirtineſs in its apartment.

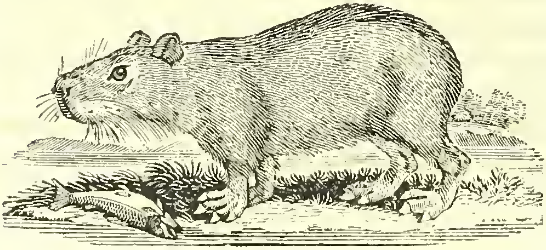
In a domeſtic ſtate, it is gentle and tractable, fond of attention, and licks the hand of any one that careſſes it. When irritated, it is apt to bite. Its anger is expreſſed by chattering its teeth, and is always preceded by a kind of grunting.——It feeds on grain, roots, fruits, and almoſt every kind of vegetable.

When purſued, it takes to the water, and eſcapes by diving. If attacked by Dogs, it makes a vigorous defence.

Its fleſh is eſteemed a great delicacy by the natives of Brazil.

We have been minute in our deſcription of this curious little animal, which was drawn from the life; and think there is good reaſon to conclude, that the ſpecies might be eaſily naturalized in this country, and added to our ſtock of uſeful animals. It is not much afraid of cold; and being accuſtomed to burrow, it would by that means defend itſelf againſt the rigours of our winter.

There are ſeveral varieties of them; ſome of which weigh from fourteen to twenty, and even thirty pounds.



THE CAPIBARA

is a native of South-America, and lives on the banks of great rivers, ſuch as the Oronoque, Amazons, and Rio de la Plata; ſwims and dives remarkably well, and is very dexterous in catching fiſh, upon which it chiefly ſubſiſts: It likewiſe eats grain, fruits, and ſugar-eanes; feeds moſtly in the night, and commits great ravages in the gardens.—They generally keep in large herds, and make a noiſe not much unlike the braying of an Aſs.

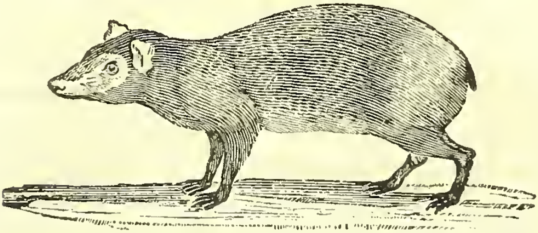
Its fleſh is fat and tender; but, like that of the Otter, has an oily and fiſhy taſte.

It is about the ſize of a ſmall Hog; and, by ſome naturaliſts, has been claſſed with that animal.

Its fore hoofs are divided into four, the hind ones into three; its head is large and thick, and on the noſe there are long whiſkers; its ears are ſmall and rounded, and its eyes large and black; there are two large cutting-teeth, and eight grinders, in each jaw; and each of theſe grinders forms on its ſurface what appears to be three teeth, flat at their ends; the legs are ſhort; the toes long, and connected at the bottom with a ſmall web; the end of each toe is guarded by a ſmall hoof; it has no tail; the hair on the body is ſhort, rough, and of a brown colour.

It is a gentle animal, eaſily tamed, and will follow thoſe who feed it and treat it kindly.

As it runs badly, on account of the peculiar conſtruction of its feet, its ſafety conſiſts not in flight; Nature has provided it with other means of preſervation: When in danger, it plunges into the water, and dives to a great diſtance.



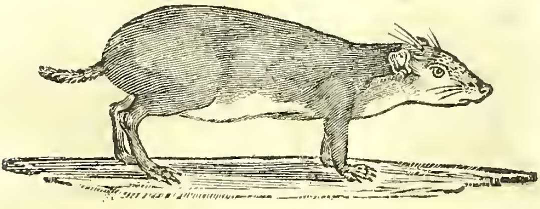
THE AGOUTI, OR LONG-NOSED CAVY,

is about the ſize of a Hare; its noſe is long, upper lip divided, ſkin ſleek and ſhining, of a brown colour mixed with red, tail ſhort, legs ſlender and almoſt naked; has four toes on the fore feet, and three on the hind; grunts like a Pig; ſits on its hind legs, and feeds itſelf with its paws; and when ſatiated with food, it conceals the remainder.——It eats fruits, roots, nuts, and almoſt every kind of vegetable; is hunted with Dogs; runs faſt; and its motions are like thoſe of a Hare.——Its fleſh, which reſembles that of a Rabbit, is eaten by the inhabitants of South-America.

Great numbers of them are found in Guiana and Brazil.—They live in woods, hedges, and hollow trees.

The female brings forth at all times of the year; and produces three, four, and ſometimes five, at a time.

If taken when young, the Agouti is eaſily tamed, and will go out and return of its own accord.——It delights in cutting or gnawing every thing with its teeth.——When irritated, the hair of its back riſes, it ſtrikes the ground with its hind feet, and at the ſame time makes a noiſe like the grunting of a Pig.

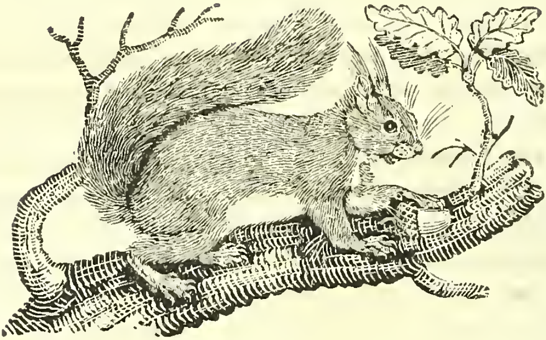


THE AKOUCHI

ſeems to be a variety of the Agouti; and, though ſomewhat leſs, is nearly of the ſame form; but its tail is longer. It inhabits the ſame countries, is of an olive colour; its fleſh is white, delicate, and has the flavour of a young Rabbit; is much eſteemed by the natives, who hunt it with Dogs, and reckon it among the fineſt game of South-America.

THE ROCK CAVY

is likewiſe found in Brazil, is about twelve inches in length, the colour of the upper part of its body reſembles that of the Hare, its belly is white, the upper lip divided, the ears ſhort and rounded like thoſe of a Rat, and has no tail. It moves like the Hare, its fore legs being ſhorter than the hind. It has four toes on the fore feet, and only three on the hind.—Its fleſh is like that of the Rabbit; and its manner of living is alſo very ſimilar.



THE SQUIRREL.

THIS beautiful little animal is equally admirable for the neatneſs and elegance of its formation, as for its livelineſs and activity.—Its diſpoſition is gentle and harmleſs.—Though naturally wild, it is ſoon familiariſed to confinement and reſtraint; and though exceſſively timid, it is eaſily taught to receive with freedom the moſt familiar careſſes from the hand that feeds it.

It uſually lives in woods, and makes its neſt of moſs or dry leaves in the hollows of trees.—It ſeldom deſcends upon the ground, but leaps from tree to tree with great agility.

Its food conſiſts of fruits, almonds, nuts, acorns, &c.; of which it accumulates great ſtores for winter proviſion, and ſecures them carefully near its neſt. In the ſummer, it feeds on buds and young ſhoots, and is particularly fond of the cones of the fir and pine trees.

The ſpring is the ſeaſon of love with Squirrels. At that time the males purſue the females, and exhibit wonderful proofs of agility; whilſt the latter, as if to make trial of the conſtancy of their lovers, ſeem to avoid them by a variety of entertaining ſallies; and, like true coquets, feign an eſcape, by way of enhancing the value of the conqueſt.—They bring forth four or five young at a time.

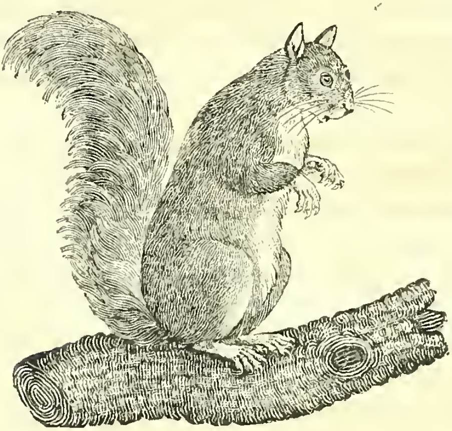
The Squirrel is of a bright-brown colour, inclining to red; the breaſt and belly are white; the ears are ornamented with long tufts of hair; the eyes are large, black, and lively; the fore teeth ſtrong and ſharp; the fore legs are curiouſly furniſhed with long ſtiff hairs, which project on each ſide like whiſkers.——When it eats, it ſits erect, and uſes its fore feet as hands to convey food to its mouth.

The tail of the Squirrel is its greateſt ornament, and ſerves as a defence from the cold, being large enough to cover the whole body; it likewiſe aſſiſts it in taking leaps from one tree to another; and we may add a third application of it, which would ſeem altogether improbable, were we not aſſured of it by Linnæus and other naturaliſts:—In attempting to croſs a lake or river, the Squirrel places itſelf upon a piece of bark; and, erecting its tail to catch the wind, boldly commits itſelf to the mercy of the waves. The ſmalleſt guſt of wind is ſufficient to overſet a whole navy of theſe little adventurers; and in ſuch perilous voyages many hundreds of them are ſaid to periſh.

Of the Squirrel there are ſeveral varieties; ſome of which are to be found in almoſt every country; but they chiefly abound in northern and temperate climates.

The Hudson's-Bay SQUIRREL

is ſmaller than the European. It is marked along the middle of the back with a duſky line, from head to tail; the belly is of a pale aſh colour, mottled with black; and the tail, which is duſky, and barred with black, is not ſo long, nor ſo full of hair, as that of the common kind.



The Grey SQUIRREL

is about the ſize of a young Rabbit: Its ears are ſhort, and not tufted at the ends; its hair is grey, mixed with black; on each ſide there is a red ſtreak, which runs lengthwiſe; its tail is long and buſhy, of a grey colour, variegated with black and white.——It is common to both continents.—In Sweden and other northern countries, it changes its colour in the winter.

It is very numerous in North-America, and does incredible damage to the plantations. Great flocks of them deſcend from the mountains, and lay waſte the fields of maize, by eating the young ears.—A reward of threepence per head was given for every one that was killed; and ſuch numbers were deſtroyed in one year, that Penſylvania alone paid in rewards the ſum of 8000l. of its currency.

It makes its neſt in hollow trees, with moſs, ſtraw, wool, &c.—It lays up ſtores of proviſions in holes made in the ground, for its winter ſuſtenance. Theſe hoards are often deſtroyed by Swine; and are ſometimes ſo long covered with ſnow, that the Squirrels periſh for want of food.

They are not eaſily ſhot, but evade the gun with great quickneſs the moment they ſee it levelled.——They are eaſily tamed; and their fleſh is eſteemed very delicate.

The fur is very valuable, and is imported under the name of *petit-gris*.

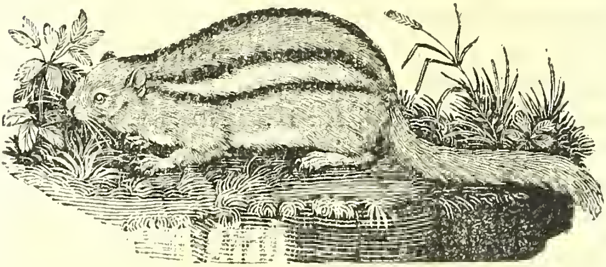
THE BLACK SQUIRREL

is about the ſame ſize and form with the laſt; but its tail is not ſo long. It is generally black, with white on the noſe, ears, and end of the tail.

Its diſpoſition and habits are ſo ſimilar to the Grey Squirrel, that it might be taken for a variety of that kind; but it is ſaid to aſſociate in ſeparate troops, and is equally numerous.

It is found in the northern parts of Aſia, North-America, and Mexico.

In the latter country, there is a variety with plain round ears; the upper part of the body variegated with black, white, and brown. It is twice the ſize of the common Squirrel, lives under ground, where it brings forth its young, and lays in its ſtock of proviſions. It feeds on maize; and is extremely lively, gentle, and docile.—It is the *Coquallin* of M. Buffon.



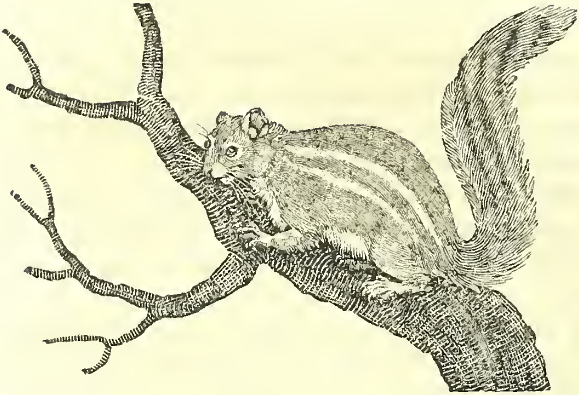
THE GROUND SQUIRREL

is very numerous in the foreſts of North-America, as well as the North of Aſia.—It burrows in the ground, and makes two entrances to its habitation; that if one ſhould be ſtopped up, it may have acceſs by the other. Its hole is formed with great ſkill, having ſeveral branches from the principal paſſage, each of which is terminated by a ſtore-houſe, in which its winter food is depoſited: In one is contained acorns, in another nuts, in a third maize, and in another cheſnuts, which are its favourite food.

Theſe animals ſeldom ſtir out during winter, nor ſo long as their proviſions laſt: When thoſe fail, they ſometimes work their way into places where apples are laid up, or into barns where maize is ſtored, and make great havock. During harveſt, they fill their mouths ſo full with corn, that their cheeks are quite diſtended; and in this manner carry it to their concealed ſtore. They give great preference to certain kinds of food; and if, after filling their mouths with rye, they chance to meet with wheat, they diſcharge the one, that they may ſecure the other.

The Ground Squirrel is marked with a ſtripe of black, which runs along the ridge of the back; and on each ſide a yellow ſtripe, bordered with black: Its head, body, and tail, arc of a reddiſh-brown; breaſt and belly white; its noſe and feet of a pale-red colour; its eyes full and lively.

It is very wild, bites ſeverely, and is tamed with difficulty.——Its ſkin is of little value.



THE BARBARY SQUIRREL

is of an aſh colour, inclining to red; each ſide is beautifully marked with two white ſtripes, running lengthwiſe; its belly is white; its tail buſhy, and variegated with regular ſhades of black, one beneath the other; its eyes are full and black, with white orbits.—It is about the ſize of the common Squirrel.

THE PALM SQUIRREL

is ſimilar to the laſt, having a pale-yellow ſtripe on the middle of the back, and two on each ſide parallel to it; the belly is of the ſame colour; the reſt of the body black and red cloſely mixed: Its tail is long, does not lie on its back like that of the Squirrel, but is carried erect.

Both theſe Squirrels inhabit Barbary and other hot countries.—They live chiefly in palm-trees, from whence the latter has its name.

THE FAT SQUIRREL

is found in France and the ſouthern parts of Europe.—Its body is covered with ſoft hair, of an aſh colour; its belly whitiſh; its ears thin and naked. It is about ſix inches long, and thicker than the common Squirrel. It dwells chiefly in trees, leaps from bough to bough, feeds on fruits and acorns, and lodges in the hollows of trees. It remains in a torpid ſtate during winter, and grows very fat.

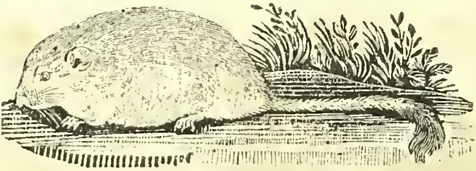
It was conſidered as a great delicacy among the Romans; who had places conſtructed on purpoſe to keep and feed them in, which they called *gliraria.*

THE GREATER DORMOUSE, OR GARDEN SQUIRREL,

is rather leſs than the laſt-mentioned. Its eyes are ſurrounded with a large black ſpot, which reaches to the ears; its body is of a tawny colour; its throat and belly white, tinged with yellow; its tail is long, and buſhy at the end.

It is common in the South of Europe, infeſts gardens, is particularly fond of peaches, and very deſtructive to all kinds of fruit.——It lodges in holes in the walls, and brings forth five or ſix young at a time.

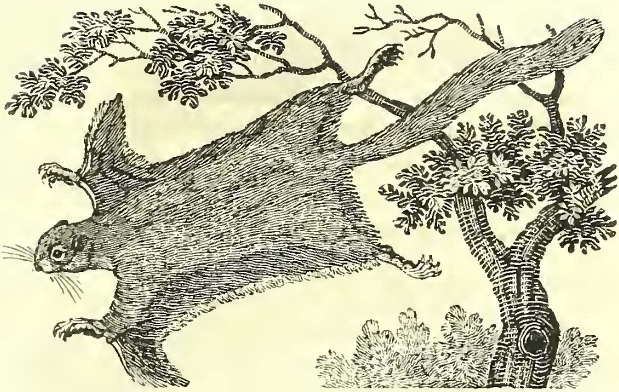
It has a ſtrong odour, like a Rat; and, like the Fat Squirrel, remains torpid during the winter.



The Lesser DORMOUSE

is rather larger than the Mouſe, of a tawny-red colour, with a white throat, and full black eyes.——It lives in woods or thick hedges; makes its neſt with graſs, dried leaves, or moſs, in the hollow of a tree, or the bottom of a thick buſh; and brings forth three or four young at a time.

It lays up ſtores of nuts, acorns, and beans; and retires at the approach of cold weather to its retreat; where it rolls itſelf up in a warm neſt, made of ſoft moſs, &c.; and remains in a torpid ſtate during the continuance of winter. The warmth of a ſunny day, or a temporary change from cold to heat, will ſometimes revive it; but, after taking a little food, it ſoon relapſes into its former ſtate.



THE FLYING SQUIRREL

is peculiarly diſtinguiſhed by a membranous continuation of the ſkin of the ſides and belly, which extends from the fore to the hind feet, and aſſiſts it greatly in making leaps from one tree to another, frequently at the diſtance of twenty or thirty yards. Its head is ſmall and round, and its upper lip cloven; its eyes are full, round, and black; and its ears ſmall and naked.

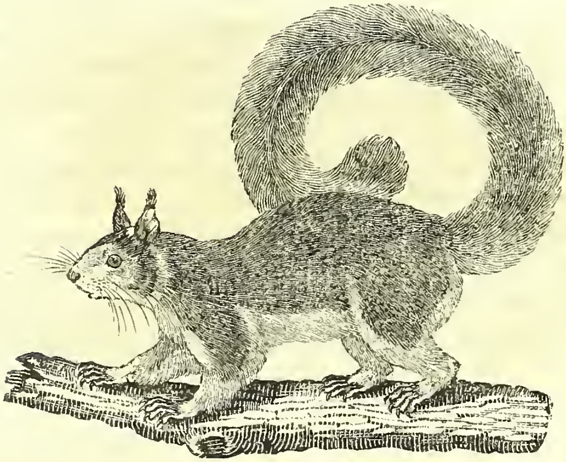
It is found in all the northern regions, both of the old and new continents. It is more numerous in America than in Europe, is leſs than the common Squirrel, lives in trees, and ſleeps in the day, but is extremely active during the night.

In the act of leaping, the looſe ſkin is ſtretched out by the feet; whereby the ſurface of the body is augmented, the animal becomes lighter in proportion to its bulk, the acceleration of its fall is retarded, and it appears to ſail or fly from one place to another. Where a number of them are ſeen at a time leaping, they appear like leaves blown off by the wind.

There are ſeveral kinds, differing much in ſize.——In the iſlands of the Eaſt-Indies, there is a variety as large as a Hare, called the TAGUAN, or GREAT FLYING SQUIRREL; which perfectly reſembles the other in figure, and in the form of its lateral membrane. The head is ſmaller in proportion to the ſize of the body; the colour of the ſkin is dark-brown, mixed with white; the under part of the body whitiſh; the tail is brown, and grows gradually deeper towards the end, where it is black; the claws are long, thin, and hooked, like thoſe of a Cat, and enable it to keep hold where it happens to fall; it alſo catches hold with its tail, which is long and muſcular.

It is a wild and timid animal.——Its bite is ſo ſtrong, that it can make its eſcape from a wooden cage with great facility.

A variety is found in Virginia, called, by Mr Pennant, the HOODED SQUIRREL; the lateral membrane beginning at the chin and ears, where it forms a kind of hood; and extending, like that of the former, from the fore to the hind legs: Its body is of a reddiſh colour above, and of a yellowiſh aſh beneath.—It is a rare ſpecies, not much noticed by naturaliſts.

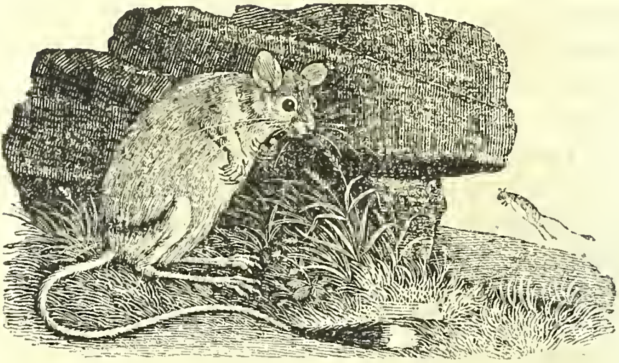


THE LONG-TAILED SQUIRREL.

This ſpecies is found in Ceylon and Malabar.——In the Cingaleſe tongue, it is called *Dandoelana;* and, from the noiſe it makes, *Roekea.*

It is about three times the ſize of the European Squirrel: The ears are tufted with black hairs; the end of the noſe is pink-coloured; the cheeks, legs, and belly, are of a dull yellow; between the ears is a yellow ſpot; the crown of the head and the back are black; from each ear is a bifurcated line of the ſame colour, pointing down the cheeks; the upper part of the feet is covered with black hairs, the lower part naked and red: The tail is nearly twice the length of the body, of a light aſh colour, and extremely buſhy; the part next the body quite ſurrounded with hairs; on the remainder the hairs are ſeparated, and lie flat.

We are indebted to Mr Pennant for the drawing of this curious animal, the deſcription of which is taken from his Indian Zoology.



THE JERBOA.

THIS animal, remarkable for the ſingular conſtruction of its legs, is found in Egypt, Barbary, and Paleſtine.—It is ſomewhat leſs than a Rat: Its head has a great reſemblance to that of a Rabbit; its eyes are large and full; the fore legs are only one inch in length, and are uſed as hands to convey victuals to its mouth; the hind legs are naked, and very much reſemble thoſe of a bird, having only three toes on each, the middle one longeſt; its tail is much longer than its body, and terminated with a black tuft, the tip of which is white; its hair is long and ſoft, of a reddiſh colour on the back; the under parts of the body are white; acroſs the thighs there is a large black band, in the form of a creſcent.

The motions of the Jerboa are ſimilar to thoſe of the Kanguroo. It goes forward very nimbly on its hind feet, taking leaps of five or ſix feet from the ground.

It is a lively, harmleſs animal, lives entirely on vegetables, and burrows in the ground like a Rabbit.

It is the *Daman Iſrael* of the Arabs, or *Lamb of Iſrael;*

and is ſuppoſed to be the *Coney* of holy writ, our Rabbit being unknown in Paleſtine. It is alſo the *Mouſe* mentioned in Iſaiah *; *Achbar*, in the original, ſignifying a Jerboa.

There are ſome varieties of the Jerboa, found in Siberia, Tartary, and various parts of Aſia.——They differ chiefly in ſize, the largeſt being about the ſize of a Rat: Its ears are large, pointed, and tipped with white; the hair on the back is of a tawny colour, and very ſoft; the belly and under part of the body are white; the end of the tail is diſtinguiſhed by a white feathered tuft, an inch long; it has five toes on the fore feet, three on the hind; and about an inch above the laſt, are two long ſlender toes, with nails on each.

This creature makes its neſt of the fineſt and moſt delicate herbage; rolls itſelf up, with its head between its thighs; and ſleeps during the winter, without taking any nutriment.

When purſued, it ſprings ſo nimbly, that its feet ſcarcely ſeem to touch the ground. It does not go ſtraight forward, but turns here and there till it gains a burrow, where it quickly ſecretes itſelf.—In leaping, it carries its tail ſtretched out; but in ſtanding or walking, carries it in the form of an S, the lower part touching the ground.

The Jerboa is eaſily tamed, is fond of warmth, and ſeems to be ſenſible of the approach of bad weather by wrapping itſelf up cloſe in hay.

Among the Mogul Tartars, this animal is called the *Alaghtaaga*.—It is ſuppoſed to be the *Two-footed Mouſe*, and the *Egyptian Mouſe* of the ancients, which were ſaid to walk on their hind legs.

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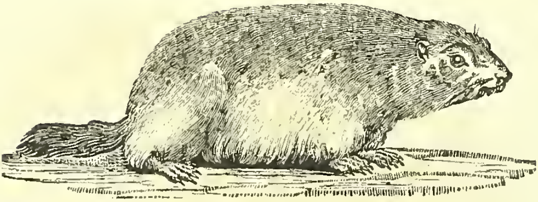
* Chap. lxvi. ver. 17.



THE MARMOT

HAS been placed by naturaliſts in the ſame claſs with the Hare and the Rat; and on examining its parts, we find a partial agreement with both theſe animals. In its noſe and lips, as well as in the general form of its head, it reſembles the Hare; its ears are like thoſe of the Rat, with which it likewiſe agrees in the number and form of its teeth and claws: In other reſpects, it is no way ſimilar to either of thoſe kinds; and is ſtill farther ſeparated from them by habitudes which ſeem peculiar to itſelf, and diſtinguiſh it from almoſt every other ſpecies of quadrupeds.

The Marmot inhabits the higheſt regions of the Alps; and is likewiſe found in Poland, Ukraine, and Chineſe Tartary.

It is ſomewhat leſs than a Hare: Its ears are round, and ſo ſhort, that they are almoſt hid in the fur; its tail is ſhort and buſhy; the hair on the back is of a browniſh-aſh colour; and that on the belly reddiſh, ſoft, and buſhy. Its voice reſembles the murmuring of a young puppy: When irritated or frightened, it makes a whiſtling noiſe, very loud and piercing.

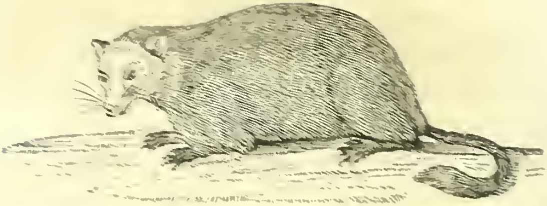
It feeds on inſects, roots, and vegetables; but when tamed, is remarkably fond of milk and butter.—It lives in holes, formed with great art in the ſide of a mountain. There are two entrances to each; and the chamber to which they lead is deep and ſpacious: The bottom is lined with moſs and hay, of which theſe provident animals lay in a ſtore during ſummer; and, at the approach of winter, ſhut themſelves up in their holes by ſtopping the entrances with earth, ſo effectually, that no diſcovery can be made of the place of their retreat. The chamber in which they lodge is large enough to contain a family of from five to a dozen Marmots. They roll themſelves up; and being well covered with hay, remain in a torpid ſtate, inſenſible to the rigours of the ſeaſon, and perfectly ſecure from the ſtorm that rages without; till the cheering influence of the ſun again calls them out to renew their exhauſted ſtrength, to propagate their kind, and provide for their future retreat. The torpid ſtate laſts from about Michaelmas till April. They go in extremely fat, but gradually waſte; and at the end of their long ſleep, they appear lean and extremely emaciated.

The Marmot produces once a year; and the litter generally conſiſts of three or four.

When a number of them are feeding together, they place one as a centinel, which makes a whiſtling noiſe on the leaſt appearance of interruption; and the party immediately betake themſelves to their holes, the centinel driving up the rear.

The Marmot is very playful, and eaſily tamed. It learns to hold a ſtick, to dance, and to exhibit various geſtures: It will obey the voice of its maſter. Like the Cat, it has an antipathy to Dogs, which it attacks fiercely upon the leaſt irritation. It is very apt to gnaw linen or woollen ſtuffs, often ſits upright, and walks with eaſe on its hind feet.—It eats in the manner of a Squirrel, and carries its food to its mouth with its fore paws.

Its fleſh is ſometimes eaten, but is always attended with a diſagreeable odour.



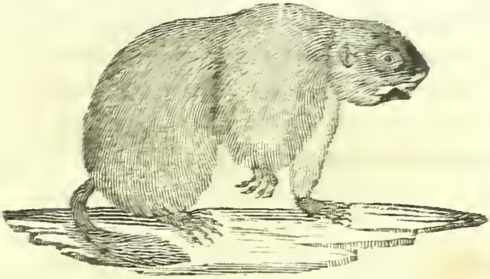
THE MONAX

is found in various parts of North-America, and ſeems to be the ſame with the Marmot of Canada, deſcribed by M. Buffon.

It is larger than a Rabbit, and in form and colour reſembles the Muſk-Rat: Its tail is ſhort and rough; its ribs ſo flexible, that it can eaſily paſs through a hole of not more than two inches diameter; its eyes are black and prominent: its back is of a deep-brown colour, lighter on the ſides and belly; and its feet and legs black.

It ſleeps during winter in holes under the roots of trees, and lives on fruits and other vegetables.——Its fleſh is good and well taſted.

An animal of the ſame kind is found in the Bahama iſles; but whether it retires to ſleep, in a climate ſo mild, is not well known.

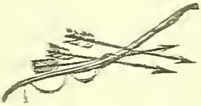


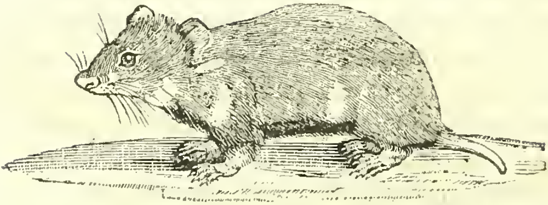
The Quebec MARMOT

is rather larger than a Rabbit: Its ears are ſhort, and its whole head round; its cheeks are of a grey colour, and its noſe black; its back is variegated, each hair being grey at the bottom, black in the middle, and white at the tips; its belly and legs are of an orange colour; its toes black and naked; and its tail ſhort, and rather buſhy.—It inhabits Hudſon's Bay and Canada.

One of them, exhibited in London ſome years ago, was perfectly tame.

Mr Pennant ſuppoſes it to be the ſpecies called the SIFFLEUR by the French of Canada.





THE HAMSTER.

Although the qualities of this animal are ſufficiently noxious to render it an object of univerſal deteſtation, in thoſe countries where it abounds; yet, when conſidered with regard to thoſe inſtincts which conduce to its own preſervation and ſupport, it well deſerves our higheſt admiration.

Its habitation is curious, and conſtructed with great art. It conſiſts of a variety of apartments, adapted to various purpoſes, and extremely well fitted both for the comfort and convenience of the inhabitants. The firſt entrance is formed in an oblique direction; at the end of which the male ſinks a perpendicular hole, which he reſerves for his own uſe. The female makes ſeveral, for the accommodation of herſelf and family, that her young, during the ſhort time they are allowed to ſtay with her, may have a free paſſage to the general ſtores. One of the holes is lined with ſtraw, and ſerves as a lodging; the others contain proviſions, of which great quantities are always accumulated during the time of harveſt.—They begin to lay in their ſtores in Auguſt.—To facilitate the tranſportation of their food, Nature has furniſhed them with two pouches in each cheek, which they fill with corn, beans, or peaſe, till they ſeem ready to burſt;

and, on their return to their holes, empty them, by preſſing their two fore feet againſt their cheeks.—The quantity of proviſion found in theſe magazines, depends on the age or ſex of the inhabitants. The old Hamſters often amaſs an hundred pounds weight of grain; but the young and the females are ſatisfied with much leſs.

At the approach of winter, the Hamſters retire into their ſubterraneous abodes, the entrance to which they ſhut up with great care: There they remain in perfect tranquillity, and feed on their proviſions till the froſt becomes ſevere, when they ſink into a torpid ſtate, in which they continue till the return of ſpring. During this period, if any of the holes be opened, the Hamſter is always found lying upon a bed of ſoft ſtraw, with its head turned under its belly, between the two fore legs; whilſt the hind ones reſt upon the muzzle: Its eyes are ſhut, every member perfectly ſtiff, and ſenſation ſo totally ſuſpended, that neither reſpiration nor any other ſign of life can be perceived. When diſſected in this ſituation, the heart may be ſeen alternately contracting and dilating very ſlowly; the fat appears to be coagulated; and the inteſtines are quite cold. During this operation, the animal ſeems to feel very little: It ſometimes opens its mouth, as if it wanted to reſpire; but the lethargy is too ſtrong to admit of its entirely awaking.

They copulate about the end of April; when the males enter the apartments of the females, but remain only a few days.—If two males happen to meet in the ſame hole, a furious combat enſues, which generally terminates in the death of the weaker.

The females bring forth twice or thrice every year;

each litter conſiſting of ſix or eight.—In about three weeks, the young are driven from their holes, and left to provide for themſelves.——Their increaſe is ſo rapid in ſome years, as to be almoſt ſufficient to occaſion a dearth; but the ferocity with which they upon all occaſions attack and devour each other, is ſo great, as to be the happy means of preventing the ill effects of their fecundity.

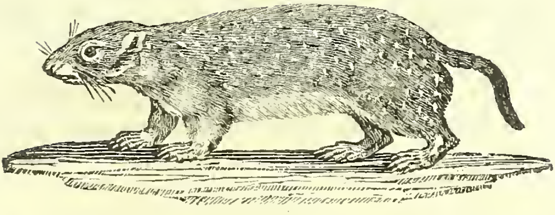
It is not only its own ſpecies to which the fury of the Hamſter is directed: He attacks and devours every animal, without diſtinction, that he is able to conquer; and frequently oppoſes himſelf to enemies much ſuperior to himſelf in ſtrength. Rather than fly, he allows himſelf to be beaten to death. If he ſeize a man's hand, he muſt be killed before he can be made to quit his hold. A Horſe or a Dog are equally objects of his rage; and wherever he ſeizes, it is with difficulty he can be diſengaged.

The Hamſter is about the ſize of a large Water-Rat; has a ſhort tail, almoſt naked: Its head and back are of a reddiſh-brown colour, not unlike that of a Hare; its throat is white, and it has three white ſpots on each ſide; its breaſt and belly are black.

It is found in various parts of Germany, Poland, and Ukraine.

The Polecat is its greateſt enemy. It purſues the Hamſter into its hole, and deſtroys great numbers.

Mr Ray obſerves, that the hair of this animal is ſo cloſely united to the ſkin, that it cannot be pulled off without great difficulty; on which account it is held in high eſtimation.



THE SOUSLIK

is about the ſize of a large Rat. Its ſkin is beautifully marked with ſmall white ſpots upon a yellowiſh ground.

It is found upon the banks of the Wolga, and in the adjoining provinces as far as Auſtria.—It burrows in the ground like a Rabbit, and lays in ſtore of proviſions, conſiſting of grain, herbs, and roots: It alſo feeds on young Mice, is very fond of ſalt, and is frequently taken on board the barges laden with that commodity.——The females bring forth from two to five at one time.

THE ZISEL, OR EARLESS MARMOT,

inſtead of ears, has only a ſmall orifice on each ſide of its head. It is of a dark-grey colour. Its body is long and ſlender, and its tail ſhort.

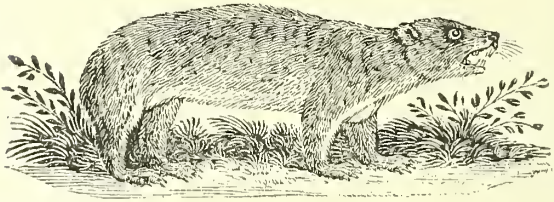
It is found in Bohemia, Auſtria, Hungary, and Siberia.——It forms its hole in the ground, with a double entrance; and ſleeps during the winter in the center of its lodge.—It lays in a ſtore of corn, nuts, &c.; and ſits up like a Squirrel when it eats.——It is eaſily provoked, and bites hard.

Its fur is of little value; but its fleſh is reckoned good eating.

In Poland and Ruſſia, there is an animal of this kind, called the ZEMNI; and, by Mr Pennant, the *Podolian Marmot.*

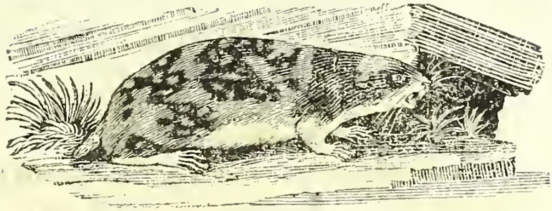
Its habits are ſimilar to thoſe of the Souſlik; but it is larger, ſtronger, and more miſchievous.

The head is thick, the body ſlender, and the ears ſhort and round: It has two cutting-teeth in each jaw; thoſe of the under jaw are much longer than the upper: The eyes are ſmall, and concealed in the fur like thoſe of the Mole: Its tail is ſhort, and of an aſh colour.



THE TAIL-LESS MARMOT.

We are favoured by Mr Pennant with the drawing of this animal, which has hitherto been undeſcribed.——In the form of its body, it ſeems to agree with the deſcription given of the Ziſel, and probably may be a variety of that animal.



THE LEMING, OR LAPLAND MARMOT.

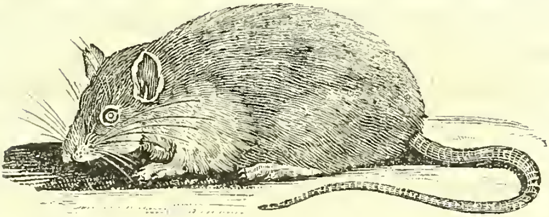
This wonderful little animal is found only in the northern parts of Europe and Aſia; and is ſometimes ſeen in immenſe numbers, overſpreading large tracts of country, in Norway, Sweden, and Lapland. But as its appearance is at very uncertain periods, and the ſource from whence it is derived has not been hitherto explored by any naturaliſt, its exiſtence has been ſeriouſly attributed, by ſuperſtitious ignorance, to the generation of the clouds; from whence, it has been ſuppoſed, it was poured down in ſhowers of rain.—Myriads of them march together; and, like a torrent which nothing can reſiſt, their courſe is marked with ruin and deſolation. Neither fire nor water prevents their progreſs. They go ſtraight forward, in regular lines, about three feet aſunder, and generally in a ſouth-eaſt direction: They ſwim acroſs lakes and rivers: No oppoſition impedes them. If thouſands are deſtroyed, thouſands ſupply their places: The void is quickly filled up; and their number does not appear diminiſhed. They perſiſt in their courſe, in ſpite of every obſtacle; and if prevented from proceeding, they either by aſſiduity ſurmount it, or die in the attempt.—Their march is moſtly in the night. They reſt during the day, and devour every root and vegetable they meet with. They infect the very herbage; and cattle are ſaid to periſh that feed upon the graſs they have touched.

An enemy, ſo numerous and deſtructive, would ſoon render the countries they paſs through utterly uninhabitable, did it not fortunately happen, that the ſame rapacity that excites them to lay waſte the productions of the earth, at laſt impels them to deſtroy each other.—Having nothing more to ſubſiſt on, they are ſaid to ſeparate into two armies, which engage with the moſt deadly hatred, and continue fighting and devouring each other till they are all entirely deſtroyed. Thouſands of them have been found dead; and the air, infected by their putrid carcaſes, has ſometimes been the occaſion of malignant diſtempers.—Great numbers of them are likewiſe deſtroyed by Foxes, Lynxes, Weaſels, and other beaſts of prey, which follow them during their march.

The Leming runs ſwiftly, although its legs are ſhort and ſlender.—It is ſomewhat leſs than the Rat: Its head is pointed; and in each jaw are two very long cutting-teeth, with which it bites keenly: Its ears are ſhort, eyes ſmall, fore legs ſhorter than the hind: The colour of the head and body black and tawny, diſpoſed in irregular patches; the belly white, tinged with yellow.

Though perfectly diſguſting to every other people, its fleſh is ſaid to be eaten by the Laplanders.

Where theſe emigrants are collected, as was before obſerved, is not certainly known. Linnæus ſays, they are produced among the Norwegian and Lapland Alps; and Pontoppidan ſuppoſes, that Kolen's Rock, which divides Nordland from Sweden, is their native place. But wherever they come from, none return. Their courſe is predeſtined; and they purſue their fate.



THE RAT,

THOUGH ſmall, weak, and contemptible in its appearance, poſſeſſes properties which render it a more formidable enemy to mankind, and more injurious to the intereſts of ſociety, than even thoſe animals that are endued with the greateſt ſtrength and moſt rapacious diſpoſitions. To the one we can oppoſe united powers and ſuperior arts; with regard to the other, experience has convinced us, that no art can counteract the effects of its amazing fecundity, and that force is ineffectually oppoſed to an enemy poſſeſſed of ſuch variety of means to elude it.

There are two kinds known in this country,—the *Black Rat*, which was formerly univerſal here, but is now very rarely ſeen, having been almoſt extirpated by the large brown kind, generally diſtinguiſhed by the name of the NORWAY RAT.—This formidable invader is now univerſally diffuſed through the whole country; from whence every method has been tried in vain to exterminate it.—It is about nine inches long; of a light-brown colour, mixed with tawny and aſh; the throat and belly are of a dirty white, inclining to grey; its feet are naked, and of a pale fleſh colour; the tail is as long as the body, covered with minute duſky ſcales, thinly interſperſed with ſhort hairs.

In ſummer, it frequents the banks of rivers, ponds, and ditches; where it lives on frogs, fiſhes, and ſmall animals. But its rapacity is not confined entirely to theſe: It deſtroys rabbits, poultry, young pigeons, &c.: It infeſts the granary, the barn, and the ſtorehouſe; does infinite miſchief among corn and fruit of all kinds; and, not content with ſatisfying its hunger, frequently carries off large quantities to its hiding-place.

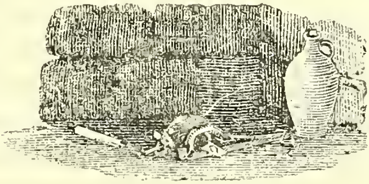
It is a bold and fierce little animal; and, when cloſely purſued, will turn and faſten on its aſſailant.—Its bite is keen; and the wound it inflicts is painful, and difficult to heal, owing to the form of its teeth, which are long, ſharp, and of an irregular form.

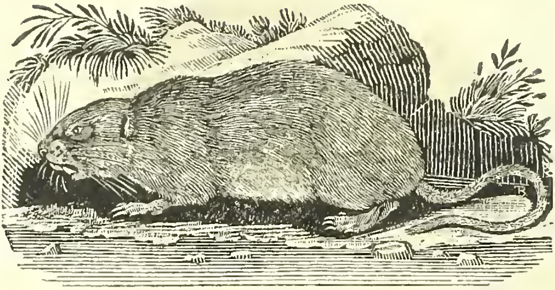
The Rat is amazingly prolific, uſually producing from twelve to eighteen at one time.—Their numbers would ſoon increaſe beyond all power of reſtraint, were it not for an inſatiable appetite, that impels them to deſtroy and devour each other. The weaker always fall a prey to the ſtronger; and the large male Rat, which uſually lives by itſelf, is dreaded by thoſe of its own ſpecies as their moſt formidable enemy.

It is a ſingular fact, in the hiſtory of theſe animals, that the ſkins of ſuch of them as have been devoured in their holes have frequently been found, curiouſly turned inſide out; every part being completely inverted, even to the ends of the toes. How the operation is performed, it would be difficult to aſcertain; but it appears to be effected in ſome peculiar mode of eating out the contents.

Beſides the numbers that periſh in theſe unnatural conflicts, they have many fierce and inveterate enemies, that take every occaſion to deſtroy them. Several kinds of Dogs purſue them with great alacrity, and eagerly kill them, though they invariably refuſe to eat their fleſh;

The Cat is alſo a very formidable enemy, but generally finds greater difficulty in the conteſt: The Rat makes a vigorous reſiſtance, and ſometimes effects its eſcape. The Weaſel is the moſt determined enemy of the Rat kind: It hunts them with unceaſing avidity; purſues them into their holes, where it ſoon kills them, and ſucks their blood: And in particular ſituations, the Ferret is a ſtill more deadly adverſary. Mankind have likewiſe contrived various methods of deſtroying theſe bold intruders. For that purpoſe, traps are often found ineffectual; ſuch being their extreme ſagacity, that when any are drawn into the ſnare, the others by that means learn to avoid the dangerous allurement, notwithſtanding the utmoſt caution may have been uſed to conceal the deſign. The ſureſt method of killing them is by poiſon: Nux vomica ground, and mixed with oatmeal, with a ſmall proportion of oil of rhodium and muſk, have been found from experience to be very effectual.

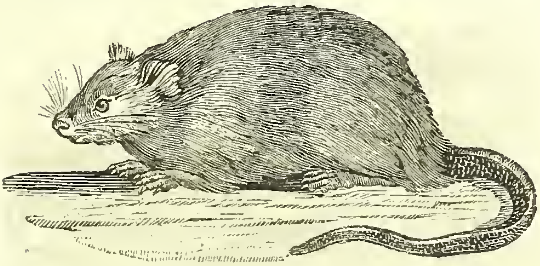




THE WATER-RAT

is ſomewhat ſmaller than the former, its head and noſe are thicker; its eyes are ſmall; its ears ſhort, ſcarcely appearing through the hair; its teeth are large, ſtrong, and yellow. In an old one which we examined, the lower inciſors meaſured ſomewhat more than half an inch in length. The hair on its head and body is thicker and longer than that of the common Rat, and chiefly of a dark-brown colour, mixed with red; the belly is grey; the tail five inches long, covered with ſhort black hairs, and the tip with white.

The Water-Rat generally frequents the ſides of rivers, ponds, and ditches; where it burrows, and forms its neſt.——It feeds on frogs, ſmall fiſh, and ſpawn; ſwims and dives remarkably faſt; and can continue a long time under water.



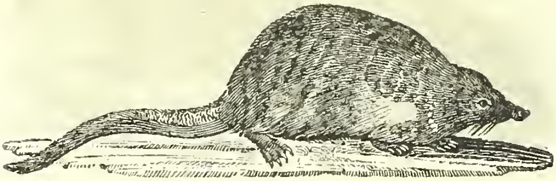
THE MUSK-RAT OF CANADA

is about the ſize of a young Rabbit: Its head is thick and ſhort, reſembling that of a Water-Rat; its hair ſoft and gloſſy; beneath the outward hair there is a thick fine down, very uſeful in the manufacture of hats; it is of a reddiſh-brown colour; its breaſt and belly aſh, tinged with red; its tail is long and flat, covered with ſcales; its eyes are large; its ears ſhort and hairy; it has two ſtrong cutting-teeth in each jaw,—thoſe of the under jaw are about an inch long, but the upper ones are ſhorter.

This animal is a native of Canada, where it is called the *Ondatra.*

In many reſpects, it very much reſembles the Beaver, both in form and manners. It is fond of the water, and ſwims well.—At the approach of winter, ſeveral families aſſociate together. They build little huts, about two feet in diameter, compoſed of herbs and ruſhes cemented with clay, forming a dome-like covering: From theſe are ſeveral paſſages, in different directions; by which they go out in queſt of roots and other food.——The hunters take them in the ſpring, by opening their holes, and letting in the light ſuddenly upon them.-—At that time their fleſh is tolerably good, and is frequently eaten;

but in the ſummer, it acquires a ſcent of muſk, ſo ſtrong, as to render it perfectly unpalatable.

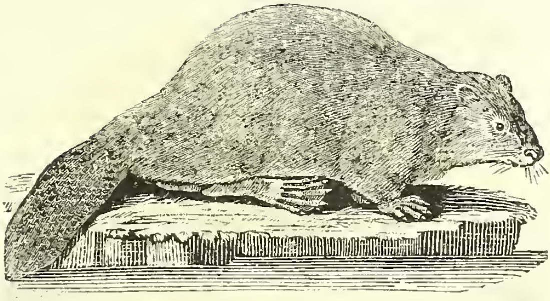


THE MUSCOVY MUSK-RAT

is about the ſize of the common Rat: Its noſe is long and ſlender, like that of the Shrew-Mouſe; it has no external ears, and its eyes are very ſmall; the tail is compreſſed ſideways, and its hind feet are webbed; it is of a duſky colour; the belly of a light aſh.

It is a native of Lapland and Ruſſia, frequents the banks of rivers, and feeds on ſmall fiſhes. It is often devoured by pikes and other fiſhes; to which it communicates ſo ſtrong a flavour of muſk, as renders them very unpleaſant to the taſte.

From its tail is extracted a kind of muſk, very much reſembling the genuine ſort.—Their ſkins are frequently laid amongſt cloaths to preſerve them from moths.——In Lapland, it is called the *Deſman.*



THE BEAVER

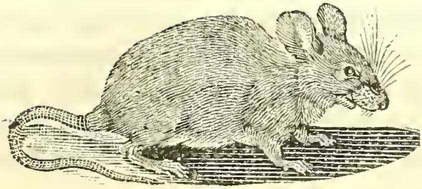
is the moſt induſtrious of all animals. Its labours ſeem the reſult of a ſocial compact, formed for mutual convenience, preſervation, and ſupport; and as, in all well-regulated ſocieties, a due ſubordination is neceſſary for the well ordering and conducting each individual effort to the advantage of the whole; ſo, amongſt theſe curious animals, we find, that, in forming their habitations, all have their proper part of the work aſſigned to them, that, by dividing their labours, ſafety, ſtability, and expedition, may be the general effect. To this purpoſe, a community of two or three hundred aſſemble together: An overſeer is choſen, whoſe orders are punctually obeyed; and, by ſtriking the water ſmartly with his tail, gives the ſignal where the united force of numbers is neceſſary to be applied, in order to ſtrengthen or ſupport the fabric; or, at the approach of an enemy, to apprize the ſociety of their danger.—As ſoon as a convenient place is choſen for the erection of their building, which is generally a level piece of ground, with a ſmall rivulet running through it, they divide into companies: Some are employed in cutting down trees of great ſize, which is done by gnawing them with their teeth: Theſe they lay acroſs the dam with ſurprizing labour and perſeverance, or form into piles, which others roll down to the water, where they make holes at the bottom for receiving the ends, and placing them upright, ſecure them in that poſition; whilſt another party is engaged in collecting twigs, interweaving and twiſting them with the piles, and thereby ſtrengthening the work: Some collect large quantities of earth, ſtones, clay, and other ſolid materials, which they diſpoſe of on the upper ſide of the piles next the ſtream, forming a mound ten or twelve feet thick at the bottom, tapering gradually upwards, and capable of ſuſtaining a conſiderable weight of water. The length of the dam, occaſioned by this means, is ſometimes not leſs than one hundred feet.—Having compleated the mole, their next care is to erect their apartments, which are built on piles: They are of a circular form, and generally conſiſt of three ſtories, about eight feet high above the water: The firſt lies below the level of the dam, and is generally full of water; the other two are above it. The walls are two feet in thickneſs, neatly plaiſtered with clay on the inſide, which is arched like an oven, and at the top reſembles a dome.—In each houſe there are two openings,—one toward the water, to which the animal has always acceſs, in caſe of ſurprize; the other toward the land, by which it goes out in queſt of food.—The number of houſes in one of theſe dams is from ten to twenty-five; ſome of them large enough to contain a family of twenty or thirty Beavers.—Each Beaver forms its bed of moſs; and each family lays in its magazine of winter proviſion, which conſiſts of bark and boughs of trees: They pile up the latter with great ingenuity and regularity, and draw it out to their apartments as their wants require. They are ſaid to be fondeſt of the ſaſſafras, aſh, and ſweet gum. During ſummer, they feed on leaves, fruits, and ſometimes crabs or cray-fiſh; but fiſh is not their favourite food.—Their time of building is early in the ſummer. In winter, they never go farther than to their proviſion ſtores; and, during that ſeaſon, are very fat.

They breed once a year, and bring forth two or three at a birth.

Beavers are found chiefly in the northern parts of Europe, Aſia, and America; particularly the latter, from whence many thouſands of their ſkins are annually brought into Europe. In 1763, the Hudſon's Bay company ſold 54,670 Beaver ſkins at one ſale.—They vary in colour. The moſt valuable are black; but the general colour is a cheſnut-brown, more or leſs dark. Some have been found entirely white, others ſpotted; but both theſe kinds are very rare.

The Beaver is remarkable for the ſize and ſtrength of its cutting-teeth, which enable it to gnaw down trees of great magnitude with eaſe. Its ears are ſhort, and almoſt hid in the fur; its noſe blunt; tail broad and flat, nearly of an oval form, and covered with ſcales—it ſerves not only as a rudder to direct its motions in the water, but as a moſt uſeful inſtrument for laying on the clay, preſſing it into the crevices, and ſmoothing the outward covering; its fore feet are ſmall, and not unlike thoſe of a Rat; the hind feet are large and ſtrong, with membranes between each toe; its length, from noſe to tail, is about three feet; the tail is eleven inches long, and three broad.

The caſtor produced from theſe animals is found in a liquid ſtate, in bags near the anus, about the ſize of an egg. When taken off, the matter dries, and is reducible to a powder, which is oily, of a ſharp bitter taſte, and a ſtrong diſagreeable ſmell.—Theſe bags are found indifferently in males and females, and were formerly ſuppoſed to be the animal's teſticles, which, when purſued, it was ſaid to bite off, and by that means eſcape with its life.



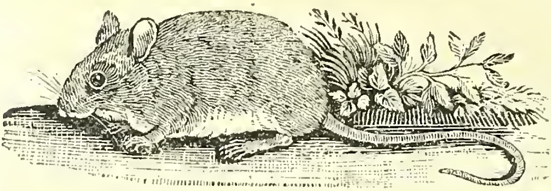
THE MOUSE.

THIS well-known little animal is diffuſed in great numbers over almoſt every part of the world. It ſeems a conſtant attendant on man, and is only to be found near his dwelling. Its enemies are numerous and powerful, and its means of reſiſtance weak and inconſiderable: Its minuteneſs ſeems to be its beſt ſecurity; and it is ſaved from utter extinction only by its amazing fecundity.

The Mouſe brings forth ſeveral times in the year, and generally from ſix to ten each litter. The young are produced without hair, and in little more than fifteen days are able to ſubſiſt by themſelves; ſo that the increaſe is prodigious. Ariſtotle tells us, that having ſhut up in a veſſel a Mouſe big with young, and provided plenty of grain for her and her offspring, in a ſhort time he found 120 Mice, all ſprung from the ſame ſtock.

The Mouſe, when viewed without the diſguſt and apprehenſion which uſually accompany the ſight of it, is a beautiful little animal: Its ſkin is ſleek and ſoft, its eyes bright and lively, all its limbs are formed with exquiſite delicacy, and its motions are ſmart and active.

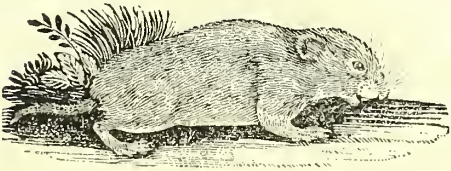
Some few of this ſpecies are of a pure white colour; but whether they be a permanent kind, or only an accidental variety, cannot well be determined. Its appearance is, however, very beautiful: Its fine full eyes, of a red colour, form an agreeable contraſt with the ſnowy whiteneſs of its fur.



THE LONG-TAILED FIELD-MOUSE

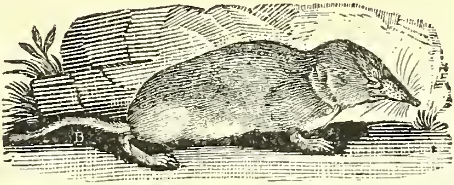
is rather larger than the common Mouſe, and very ſimilar to it in form: It is of a yellowiſh-brown colour, its belly white, and its eyes remarkably large and prominent. ---It is found only in the fields, woods, and gardens; feeds on nuts, corn, and acorns; and lays up great ſtores for its ſupport during winter. It burrows in the earth, and generally forms its neſt near the root of a tree or thick buſh. If proviſions fail during a ſtorm, they devour each other; are very prolific, and bring nine or ten young at a time.

Mr Pennant mentions a ſpecies, found in Hampſhire, only two inches and an half long from noſe to tail, of a fine ruſt colour above, and white beneath. It appears in great numbers in harveſt-time among the ſheaves and ricks of corn. During the winter, it ſhelters itſelf under ground, where it makes a warm bed of dry graſs and leaves.—Its young are brought forth on a neſt made between the ſtraws of the ſtanding corn, and are generally about eight in number each time.



THE SHORT-TAILED FIELD-MOUSE

differs from the laſt, in having a thicker head, and ſhorter tail: Its ears are very ſhort, and almoſt hid in the hair; its body is about three inches long, and the tail one inch; the upper part of the body is of a reddiſh-brown, and the belly a deep-aſh colour.—Like the laſt, it frequents the fields and woods, but is ſeldom troubleſome in gardens: It alſo lives on the ſame kinds of food, which it hides in holes under ground.—It makes its neſt in moiſt meadows, and brings forth ſeven or eight young at a time.

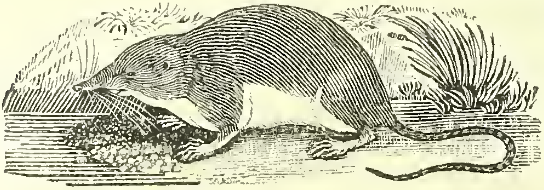


THE SHREW-MOUSE

is ſmaller than the common Mouſe, being only two inches and a half long from the noſe to the tail: The noſe is long and ſlender; the ears ſhort; and the eyes, like thoſe of the Mole, almoſt concealed in the fur. It is of a reddiſh-brown colour; the belly white.——The two upper fore teeth of this animal are ſingularly conſtructed, and deſerve particular notice; having a ſmall barb on each ſide, ſo fine, as to be ſcarcely viſible.

The Shrew-Mouſe frequents old walls and heaps of ſtones; feeds on inſects, corn, and putrid ſubſtances; and is ſometimes ſeen on dunghills, where it roots with its noſe like a Hog.—It has ſo ſtrong and diſagreeable a ſmell, that the Cat, after ſhe has killed, refuſes to eat it.—It forms its neſt of dry graſs, moſs, &c. on the ſurface of meadows or paſtures; and is ſaid to breed four or five young at a time.

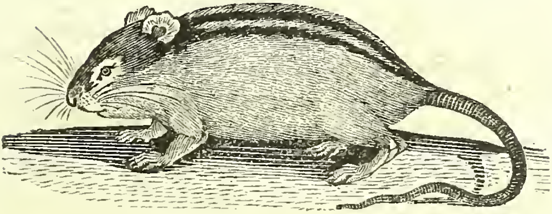
There ſeems to be an annual mortality of theſe animals in Auguſt; numbers of them being found dead in the fields, highways, &c. about that time.



THE WATER SHREW-MOUSE

is larger than the laſt. The upper part of its body is black; the throat, breaſt, and belly, of a light aſh colour.—It is rarely to be ſeen; frequents the banks of rivulets and marſhy places, where it burrows.

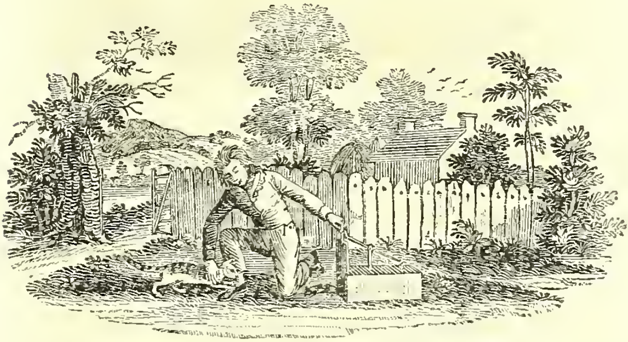
It is very numerous in Lincolnſhire, but was never obſerved there till about twenty years ago.—It is called, in that country, the *Blind Mouſe.*

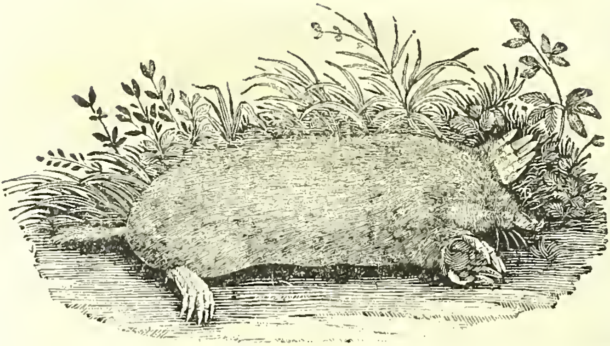


THE DWARF MOUSE

is a native of the Cape of Good Hope, where it was diſcovered, and firſt deſcribed, by Sparrman.—It is diſtinguiſhed from every other ſpecies of the genus, by four black lines along its back, from the head to the tail.

It is ſuppoſed to be the moſt diminutive quadruped in the world, being ſcarcely two inches in length. In the annexed repreſentation, it is drawn the natural ſize, and forms a ſtriking contraſt with thoſe gigantic animals which inhabit that quarter of the world.





THE MOLE.

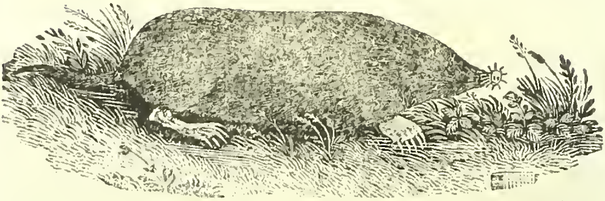
THIS animal, deſtined to ſeek its food and provide for its ſubſiſtence under the ſurface of the earth, is wonderfully adapted, by the all-wiſe Author of nature, to its peculiar mode of living. It enjoys the ſenſes of hearing and ſmelling in a very eminent degree: The former gives notice of every approach of danger; whilſt the latter enables it to find its prey in the midſt of darkneſs, and compenſates in a great meaſure for an almoſt total want of ſight. To an animal ſo circumſtanced, a larger degree of viſion would be attended with manifeſt inconveniences, as well as liable to continual injuries. We are told by anatomiſts, that, for their better ſecurity, the eyes of the Mole are furniſhed with muſcles, by which it has the power of withdrawing or exerting them at pleaſure. Its eyes are extremely ſmall, and perfectly hid in the fur; but it is probable, they are ſo formed, as to admit diſtinct images of the diminutive objects of its purſuit.

The form of this creature's body, and particularly the conſtruction of its fore feet, are admirably adapted to the purpoſe of making its way in the earth, which it does with wonderful facility: They are quite naked, very broad, with large palms, almoſt like a hand: There are five toes on each, terminated with ſtrong nails, very concave on the under ſide; and in place of a thumb, a ſtrong bone under the ſkin. The hind feet are very ſmall, with five ſlender toes, and a ſmall thumb on the inſide.—Whenever it happens to be ſurprized on the ſurface of the ground, it diſappears in an inſtant; and every attempt to prevent its ſubterraneous retreat would be vain.

The Mole is moſtly found in grounds where the ſoil is looſe and ſoft, and affords the greateſt quantity of worms and inſects, on which it feeds.

The female brings forth in the ſpring, and generally produces four or five at a time. The young are quite naked, and continue ſo till they are grown to a conſiderable ſize.—It makes its neſt a little below the ſurface of the ground, forming a commodious apartment, where it prepares a warm bed of moſs and herbage: From this there are ſeveral paſſages in different directions, to which it can retreat with its young ones in caſe of danger; into theſe likewiſe it makes excurſions in queſt of food.—In the act of forming its tracks or runs, it throws up large heaps of mould, which are extremely troubleſome and injurious in meadows, graſs lands, and cultivated grounds. Its deſtruction is conſequently an object of importance to farmers, gardeners, &c.

The ſkin of the Mole is extremely tough; its fur ſhort, cloſe-ſet, and ſofter than the fineſt velvet, or perhaps the fur of any other animal: It is uſually black, ſometimes ſpotted with white, and ſometimes (though rarely) white. It is about ſix inches in length, and its tail one inch.



THE RADIATED MOLE

is leſs than the common Mole, being not quite four inches long: Its fur is very cloſe, ſhort, and fine: Its noſe is very curiouſly beſet with radiated tendrils.—It is a native of North-America, feeds on roots, and forms ſubterraneous paſſages in different directions.

There is a kind, found in Siberia, with a very ſhort noſe, and no tail. It is of a beautiful green and gold colour, variable with the light.

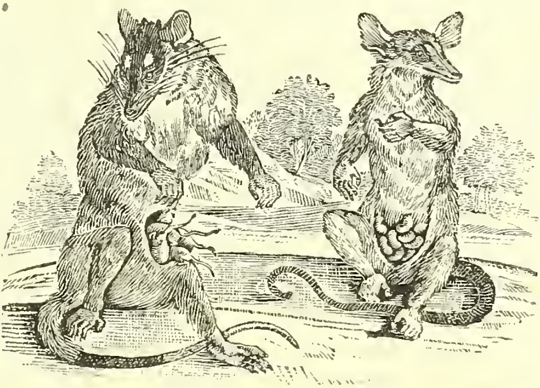
There are ſome other varieties, that differ chiefly in the colour of the hair; ſuch as the *Yellow Mole* of North-America, which is larger than the European. Its hair is ſoft, and of a ſilky gloſs.

That which is found in Virginia, reſembles the common Mole. It is of a black colour, mixed with deep purple.

It is ſaid, that hats, peculiarly fine and beautiful, have been made of the fur of the Mole.

THE OPOSSUM

IS found in great numbers in various parts of North and South-America, and was ſuppoſed by Buffon to belong entirely to the new continent: We are now, however, aſſured, that it exiſts in many of the Indian iſlands. Several varieties of the Opoſſum kind have been ſeen alſo in the newly-diſcovered countries in the South ſeas.



THE SARAGOY. THE MURINE.

The SARAGOY, or MULUCCA OPOSSUM of Mr Pennant, is about the ſize of a Cat: Its head is long; noſe ſharp and pointed; ears large, thin, and naked; eyes ſmall, black, and lively, having a white ſpot above each of them; its fur is ſoft, long, and of a duſky aſh colour; its belly white; its tail is ſimilar to that of a Rat, naked and ſcaly, except a ſmall part near the body, which is covered with hair; its legs are ſhort; and its feet or hands not unlike thoſe of a Monkey, having five toes or fingers on each; the thumbs on the hind feet are deſtitute of nails. But the peculiar and diſtinguiſhing characteriſtic of the Opoſſum is a pouch or falſe belly, in which the female depoſits her young immediately after they are brought forth, and nouriſhes them in it till they are able to provide for themſelves.

The Chevalier d'Aboville, whilſt in America during the late war, in order to be ſatisfied reſpecting the time of its geſtation, manner of bringing forth, and ſuckling its young, procured a male and female Opoſſum, which he tamed, and kept in his chamber till they copulated. Ten days after, he obſerved a conſiderable alteration in the ſize and form of the pouch; its aperture being wider than it was before, and its orifice thicker: From that time it gradually grew cloſer, leaving only a ſmall opening in the middle, ſimilar to a navel: On the fifteenth day he introduced his finger, and found at the bottom of the bag a ſmall round body, about the ſize of a pea: The twenty-fifth day he could feel a motion under his finger. After the young had been a month in the pouch, they were plainly to be ſeen, on opening it a little. At the end of two months, on examining the pouch, there appeared to be ſix young ones; all of them attached to the mother by a canal that entered the mouth, which, if withdrawn, could not be replaced; but when ſix weeks old, the young Opoſſum could reſume it by ſtrong ſuction, the mouth being then large enough to receive the pap, which is about two lines in length, and the ſize of the ſecond or third ſtring of a violin.

The number of the young varies from five to ten or eleven.

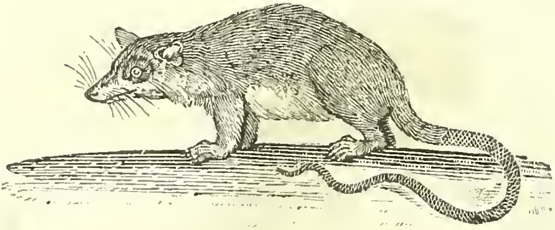
The paps are not diſpoſed in regular order, as in other animals; but ſeem as if they were formed in thoſe places where the embryos attach themſelves to the mother.

The Opoſſum is a ſlow, helpleſs animal, when on the ground; but climbs trees with great eaſe and quickneſs; ſometimes conceals itſelf among the branches, and ſurprizes the birds that come within its reach. It frequently hangs, ſuſpended by its tail; and, in that ſituation, watches for its prey, which it darts upon with great agility.

By means of its tail, the Opoſſum flings itſelf from one tree to another.—It feeds on birds, reptiles, inſects, roots, leaves, and the bark of trees.—It is eaſily tamed, is neither miſchievous nor ferocious; but its figure is diſagreeable, and the odour that exhales from its ſkin rank and diſguſting.

The Murine Opossum, or Marmose of M. Buffon, inhabits the warmeſt parts of South-America.—It reſembles the former, but is much leſs. Its food and manner of living are likewiſe very ſimilar to it.

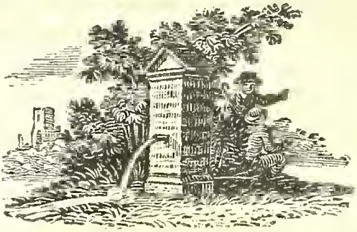
It brings forth from ten to fourteen young at a time; but, inſtead of a bag, the female has two longitudinal folds under her belly, within which the young are ſecured. When firſt produced, they are not larger than beans, and remain cloſely attached to the teat till they attain ſufficient growth and ſtrength to provide for themſelves.

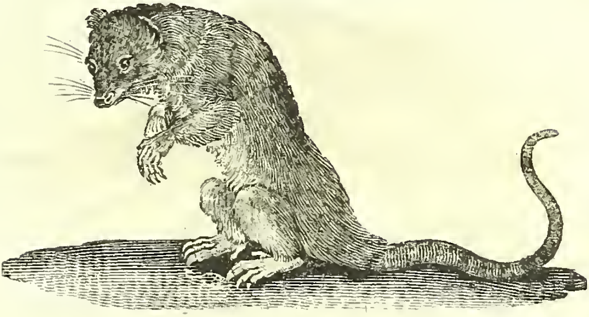


The Mexican OPOSSUM

differs little from the preceding either in ſize or form.— It is found in the mountainous parts of New-Spain, lives in trees. Its tail is uſeful in twiſting round the branches, and ſecuring its hold.

The young attach themſelves to their mother by their hands and tails; and, upon the leaſt alarm, embrace her cloſely; whilſt ſhe carries them to the ſhelter of ſome neighbouring tree.





THE PHALANGER, OR SURINAM OPOSSUM,

is ſomewhat larger than a Rat: Its noſe is thick; ears ſhort and hairy; its fur of a reddiſh colour, variegated with light aſh and yellow; the under part of the body yellowiſh-white; it is diſtinguiſhed from all thoſe of the Opoſſum kind we have hitherto mentioned, in having the firſt and ſecond toes of the hind feet cloſely united; its claws are large; tail long, very broad and thick at its junction with the body, and naked at the end.

It inhabits Surinam; is ſuppoſed to be the animal called the *Cane-Rat*, very deſtructive to the ſugar-canes.

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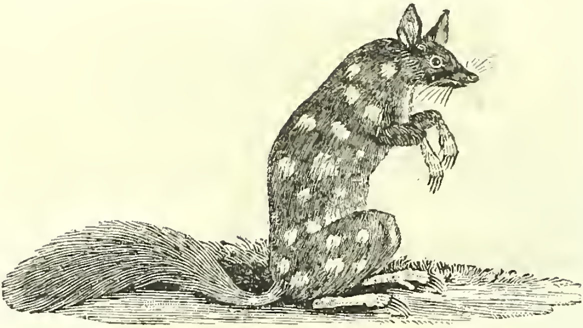
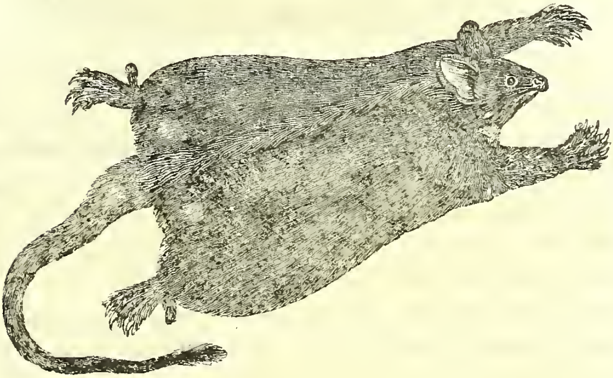


THE SPOTTED OPOSSUM OF NEW SOUTH-WALES.

The general colour of this animal is black; the body ſpotted with irregular roundiſh patches of white; the ears are large and erect; muzzle long, pointed, and furniſhed with long ſlender whiſkers; both fore and hind legs thinly covered with hair of an aſh colour; on the fore feet it has five claws, and on the hind four; length, from noſe to tail, about twenty-five inches; tail thick and buſhy, like that of a Squirrel, except a part near the body, which is ſmall, and covered with ſhort hairs. The female has ſix teats, placed circularly within the pouch.

THE VULPINE OPOSSUM OF NEW SOUTH-WALES

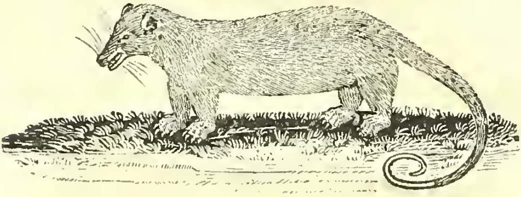
is long-bodied and ſhort-legged; from the noſe to the inſertion of the tail, meaſures two feet two inches; tail fifteen inches; upper part of the body griſly, conſiſting of duſky, reddiſh, and white hairs; the under parts light-tawny; two-thirds of the tail black; a blackiſh ſpace round each eye; long black whiſkers; five toes on the fore feet, and four on the hind, with a thumb of two joints placed at the baſe of the inner toe; the toes of the fore feet are long, and anſwer the purpoſe of a hand; the ears are about an inch and a half in length; in the upper jaw are ſix cutting teeth, four grinders, and two canine teeth; in the lower jaw, two long cutting teeth, like thoſe of a Squirrel, and four grinders, but no canine teeth.



THE FLYING OPOSSUM OF NEW SOUTH-WALES.

Its noſe is pointed; its ears large and erect; the fur more delicate, and of a finer texture, than that of the Sea-Otter,—is of a beautiful dark colour, and very gloſſy, mixed with grey; the under parts white; on each hip is a tan-coloured ſpot; the fur is continued to the claws;

the ſailing membrane is the ſame as that of the Grey Squirrel, but broader in proportion; on the fore legs it has five toes, with a claw on each; on the hind ones, four toes, and a long thumb, which enables the animal to uſe it as a hand; it is remarkable, that the three outſide claws of the hind feet are not ſeparated like the others.

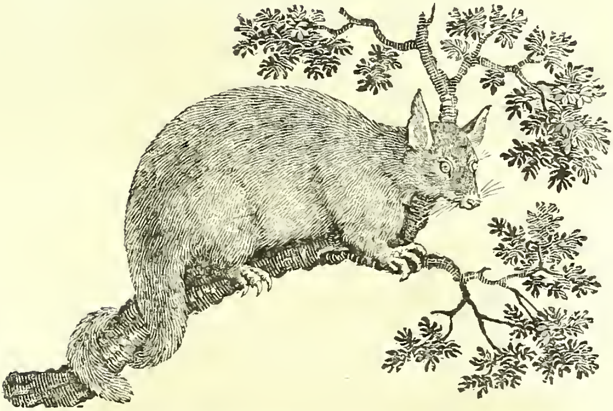


THE OPOSSUM OF VAN DIEMEN'S LAND

was diſcovered by Captain Cook in January, 1777; who deſcribes it as about twice the ſize of a large Rat.—It is covered with long ſoft gloſſy hair, of a ruſty brown colour; its belly is of a dirty white.

It inhabits Van Diemen's Land, the ſouthern point of New-Holland.

* * *

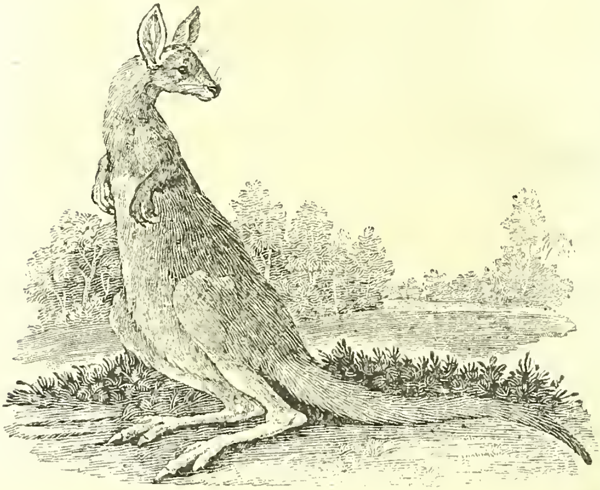


THE SQUIRREL-OPOSSUM.

We are favoured with a drawing of this beautiful animal, taken from a living one in the poſſeſſion of the reverend Mr Egerton, prebendary of Durham, by the ingenious Mr Carfrae.

It is a native of New South-Wales; is about eighteen inches long, excluſive of the tail, which is twelve: Its head is broad, and pointed at the muzzle, which is furniſhed with long whiſkers; its eyes are full, exceedingly prominent, and of a fiery redneſs; it has five claws on the fore feet,—three on the hind, and a thumb; two cutting teeth in each jaw, the upper projecting beyond the under.—Its manners are ſimilar to thoſe of a Squirrel. It ſits up, holds its food in its fore paws with great dexterity, and feeds itſelf. When irritated, it ſits ſtill more erect, or throws itſelf upon its back, making a loud and harſh noiſe.——It feeds on vegetables, ſmall birds, &c.

The fur is long, ſoft, and very cloſe; of a mixed brown or greyiſh colour on the back; the under parts of a yellowiſh-white. Its tail is prehenſile, very broad at the baſe, tapers to the end, and is naked on the under ſide.—The female is furniſhed with a pouch.



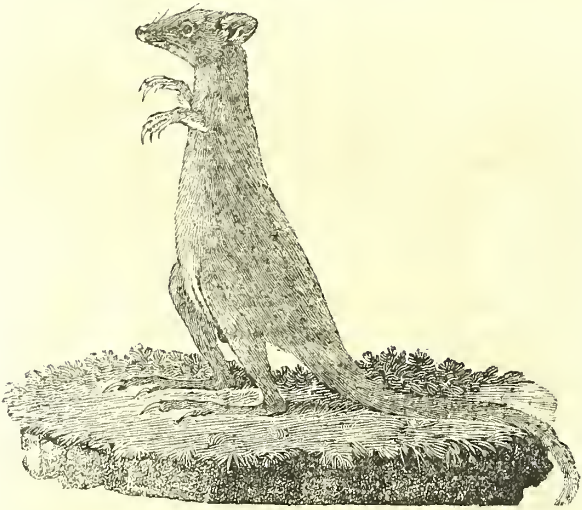
THE KANGUROO

is a native of New-Holland, where it was firſt diſcovered by Sir Joſeph Banks.——Its head is ſmall and taper, ears large and erect, upper lip divided, the end of the noſe black, noſtrils wide, lower jaw ſhorter than the upper, and there are whiſkers on both; it likewiſe has ſtrong hairs above and below the eyes; its head, neck, and ſhoulders, are ſmall; the lower parts of the body increaſing in thickneſs to the rump; its tail is long, very thick near the rump, and taper; its fore feet are extremely ſhort, and are moſtly uſed in digging or bringing its food to its mouth; it moves altogether on its hind legs, making ſucceſſive bounds of ten or twelve feet, with ſuch rapidity, as to outſtrip the fleeteſt Greyhound; it ſprings from rock to rock, and leaps over buſhes ſeven or eight feet high, with great eaſe; it has five toes on its fore feet,—three on the hind, the middle one very long; the inner claw is divided down the middle into two parts.

The Kanguroo reſts on its hind legs, which are hard, black, and naked on the under ſide. Its fur is ſhort and ſoft, of a reddiſh aſh colour, lighter on the lower parts.

It is the only quadruped our coloniſts have yet met with in New South-Wales that ſupplies them with animal food.——There are two kinds. The largeſt that had been ſhot weighed about 140lb.; and meaſured, from the point of the noſe to the end of the tail, ſix feet one inch; the tail, two feet one inch; head, eight inches; fore legs, one foot; hind legs, two feet eight inches; circumference of the fore part of the body, near the legs, one foot one inch; and of the hind part, three feet. The ſmaller kind ſeldom exceed 60lb.

This animal is furniſhed with a pouch, ſimilar to that of the Opoſſum; in which its young are nurſed and ſheltered.



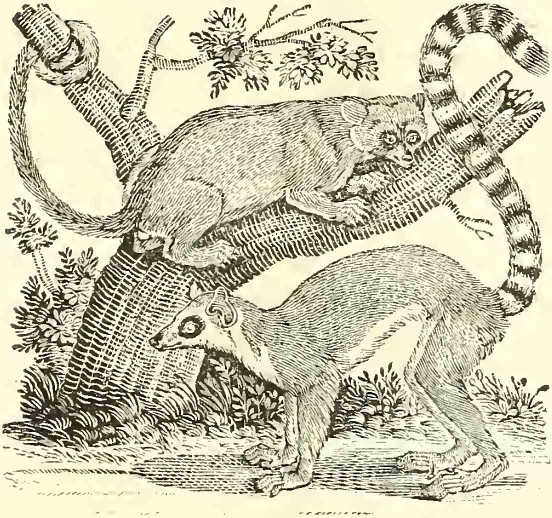
THE KANGUROO-RAT OF NEW SOUTH-WALES

is about the ſize of a Rabbit, and in ſhape reſembles the Kanguroo, both in reſpect to the ſhortneſs of the fore legs, and the peculiar conſtruction and uſe of the hind ones; the form of the head is like that of a Rat, and its body nearly of the ſame colour; in the upper jaw it has two long cutting teeth, with three ſhort ones on each ſide of them; in the lower jaw, two long cutting teeth, and three grinders on each ſide.

The female, like moſt of the animals of that country, has a pouch, like the Opoſſum.

It feeds on vegetables, burrows in the ground, and is very tame and inoffenſive.

THE YELLOW MACAUCO.



THE RING-TAILED MACAUCO.

THE YELLOW MACAUCO has been claſſed with the Weaſel tribe by Mr Pennant, in his Hiſtory of Quadrupeds; and it ſeems to bear ſome general reſemblance to that ſpecies of animals. Its head is flat and broad; its ears are ſhort, eyes ſmall, body long and ſlender, legs and thighs ſhort and thick, and it has five ſtraight toes on each foot: Its fur is ſhort, ſoft, and gloſſy,—of a black colour, mixed with yellow, on the back; the cheeks, inſide of the legs, and belly, yellow; along the back, from head to tail, there is a broad duſky ſtripe; and another on the belly, half way from the tail, which is nearly as long as its body, of a bright tawny colour, mixed with black, and has the ſame prehenſile faculty as thoſe of ſome kinds of Monkies. Its length, from noſe to tail, is nineteen inches.

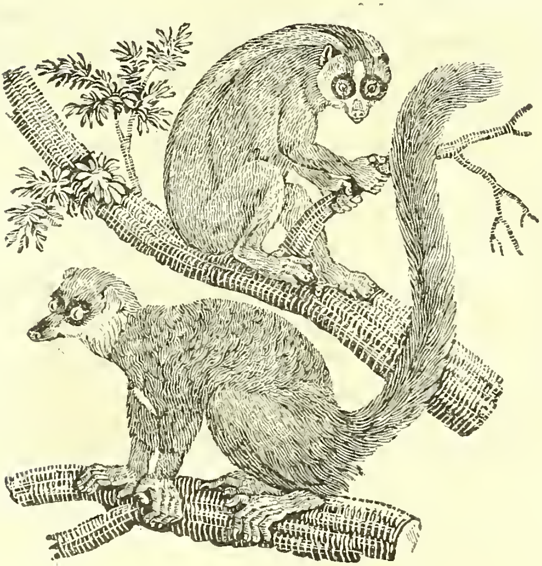
One of this ſpecies was ſhewn in London ſome years ago, and was ſaid to have been brought from Jamaica, where it is called the *Potto*. It was good-natured and ſportive, would catch hold of any thing with its tail, and ſuſpend itſelf by it.

The Ring-tailed Macauco is a very beautiful animal, about the ſize of a Cat. Its body and limbs are long and ſlender; its tail very long, and marked with alternate bars of black and white: In the conformation of its paws, it ſeems to approach the Monkey kind; but its noſe is long and ſharp, like that of a Fox; and its ears are alſo large and pointed: Its head and throat are white; eyes large, and ſurrounded with black: Its fur is gloſſy, ſoft, and delicate,—of a reddiſh-aſh colour on the back; belly white.

It is found in Madagaſcar and the neighbouring iſles, is very playful, but not miſchievous.——When in motion, it makes a ſort of galloping progreſs in an oblique direction, and carries its tail almoſt erect; but when ſitting, it is twiſted round the body, and brought over its head.——Troops of thirty or forty are ſometimes ſeen together.

It is a cleanly animal; and, when taken young, may be eaſily tamed.

The Tail-less MACAUCO.



The MONGOOZ.

The Tail-less Macauco is found in Ceylon and Bengal, lives in woods, and feeds on fruits; is fond of eggs and ſmall birds, which it devours greedily.

It is a very inactive animal, and its motions ſlow; very tenacious of its hold, and makes a plaintive noiſe.

Its head is ſmall, and noſe pointed; each eye is edged with a circle of white, which is alſo ſurrounded with another of black; its body is covered with a ſhort ſilky fur, of a reddiſh-aſh colour; the toes naked; nails flat, except thoſe on the inner toes of the hind feet, which are ſharp and crooked. Its length, from the noſe to the rump, is ſixteen inches.

The MONGOOZ is nearly of the ſame ſize as the Ring-tailed Macauco.

Its fur is ſine, ſoft, and woolly,—of a deep browniſh-aſh colour; the eyes are of a beautiful orange colour, ſurrounded with black; the ears are ſhort; cheeks white; end of the noſe black; the tail very long, and covered with hair of the ſame ſort and colour as the body; its hands and feet are naked, and of a duſky colour; its nails, except one upon the inner toe of each hind foot, are flat.

It inhabits Madagaſcar and the iſles adjacent, ſleeps in trees, is very playful and good-natured, feeds on fruits, is extremely tender, and cannot bear any change to a leſs temperate climate.

THE LORIS

is a very ſlender animal, and differs greatly from the preceding, both in form and manners.

It is not much larger than a Squirrel, but its limbs are longer; the hind legs greatly exceed the fore in length; the thumbs on each foot are more diſtinct and ſeparate from the toes than thoſe of other Macaucos; its noſe is pointed, like that of a Dog; its forehead high; ears round and thin; its fur is ſhort and delicately ſoft, of a tawny colour on the back, and whitiſh below: It has no tail.

The Loris is a native of Ceylon, very active, lives in trees, and feeds on fruit. Seba ſays, the male climbs the trees, and taſtes the fruit before he preſents it to his mate.

THE BLACK MACAUCO,

or VARI of M. Buffon, is larger than the Mongooz.——It is a native of Madagaſcar, is very fierce, and makes a loud noiſe in the woods; but, when tamed, is gentle and good-natured.——Its eyes are of a deep orange colour. Round its head, the hair is long, and ſtands out like a ruff.

The general colour of this animal is black; but ſome are white, ſpotted with black. The feet are black and naked.

THE TARSIER

is remarkable for the great length of its hind legs, in which it reſembles the Jerboa; has four ſlender toes and a diſtinct thumb on each foot: Its viſage is pointed; eyes large and prominent; ears erect, broad, and naked: Its hair is ſoft and woolly, of a deep aſh colour, mixed with tawny: Its length, from the noſe to the rump, is nearly ſix inches; the tail is nine inches long, round, ſcaly, almoſt naked, like that of a Rat, and tufted at the end.

It is found in ſome of the remote iſlands of India, eſpecially Amboyna.

ANIMALS OF THE MONKEY KIND.

WE come now to the deſcription of a numerous race of animals, conſiſting of a greater variety of kinds, and making nearer approaches to the human ſpecies, both in form and action, than any other claſs of quadrupeds.

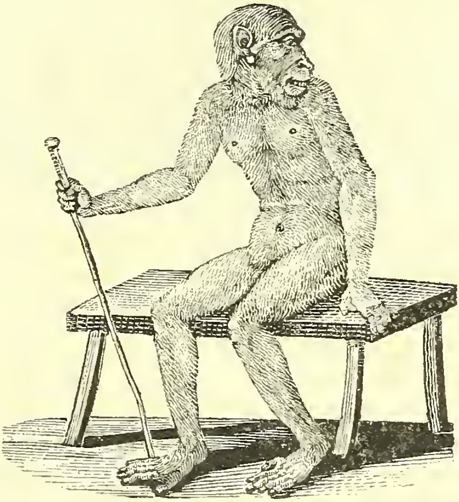
Monkies are found only in the warmeſt parts of the world, and chiefly in the torrid zone. They abound in the woods of Africa, from Senegal to the Cape of Good Hope, and from thence to Ethiopia; in all parts of India and its iſles; in the South of China; in Japan; and in South-America, from the Iſthmus of Darien as far as Paraguay. A ſpecies or two are alſo met with in Arabia and the province of Barbary.

On account of the numbers and different appearances of theſe animals, they have been divided into three claſſes, and deſcribed under the following denominations; viz.—APES, or ſuch as have no tails; BABOONS, or ſuch as have ſhort tails; MONKIES, or ſuch as have long tails.

In the APE kind, we ſee the whole external machine ſtrongly impreſſed with the human likeneſs, and capable of ſimilar exertions: They walk upright, their poſteriors are fleſhy, their legs are furniſhed with calves, and their hands and feet are nearly like the human.

In the BABOON, we perceive a more diſtant reſemblance of the human form: He generally goes upon all four, ſeldom upright, but when conſtrained to it in a ſtate of ſervitude.—Some of them are as tall as a man.—They have ſhort tails, long faces, ſunk eyes, are extremely diſguſting, laſcivious, and poſſeſſed of the moſt brutal fierceneſs.

The MONKEY kind are removed ſtill farther, and are much leſs than the former. Their tails are generally longer than their bodies; and, although they ſit upon their poſteriors, they always move upon all four.—They are a lively, active race of animals, full of frolic and grimace, greatly addicted to thieving, and extremely fond of imitating human actions, but always with a miſchievous intention.



THE ORAN-OUTANG, OR WILD-MAN OF THE WOODS,

is the largeſt of all the Ape kind, and makes the neareſt approach to the human figure. One of this kind, diſſected by Dr Tyſon, has been very accurately deſcribed by him. The principal external differences pointed out by that learned phyſician, conſiſted in the great length of the arms, and ſhortneſs of the thighs; the thumb is alſo much ſmaller, and the palm of the hand longer and narrower, than in man; the form of the feet is very diſſimilar, the toes being much longer, and the large toe placed at a greater diſtance from the others; the forehead is higher, the noſe flat, and the eyes much ſunk: Beſide theſe, the anatomiſt has enumerated a variety of eſſential differences in the internal conformation of the Oran-Outang; all of which ſufficiently evince, that, though he has the ſtrongeſt affinity to the human form of any other quadruped; yet, as Buffon elegantly obſerves, " the interval which ſeparates the two ſpecies is immenſe; the reſemblance in figure and organization, and the movements of imitation which ſeem to reſult from theſe ſimilarities, neither make him approach the nature of man, nor elevate him above that of the brute."

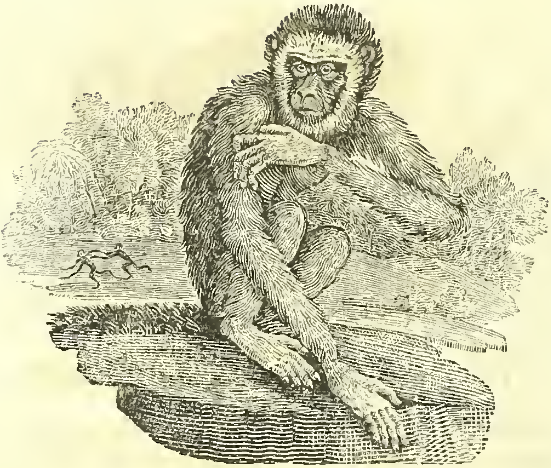
The Oran-Outang is found in the interior parts of Africa, in Madagaſcar, Borneo, and ſome parts of the Eaſt-Indies.

It is a ſolitary animal, avoids mankind, and lives only in the moſt deſert places.

The largeſt of the kind are ſaid to be about ſix feet high, very active, ſtrong, and intrepid, capable of overcoming the ſtrongeſt man: They are likewiſe exceedingly ſwift, and cannot eaſily be taken alive.—They live entirely on fruits and nuts, will ſometimes attack and kill the negroes who wander in the woods, and drive away the elephants that happen to approach too near the place of their reſidence. They ſometimes ſurprize the female negroes, and carry them off into the woods, where they compel them to ſtay with them.

When taken young, however, the Oran-Outang is capable of being tamed, and rendered extremely docile.—One of them, ſhewn in London ſome years ago, was taught to ſit at table, make uſe of a ſpoon or fork in eating its victuals, and drink wine or other liquors out of a glaſs. It was extremely mild, affectionate, and good-natured; much attached to its keeper, and obedient to his commands. Its aſpect was grave, and its diſpoſition melancholy. It was young, and only two feet four inches high. Its body was covered with hair of a black colour, which was much thicker and cloſer on the back than on the fore part of the body; the hands and ſoles of the feet were naked, and of a duſky colour.

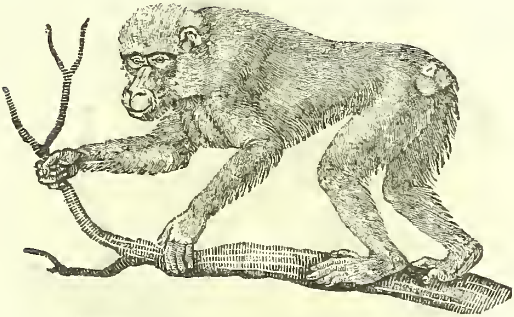
A variety, called the PIGMY, is found in Guinea, Ethiopia, and other parts of Africa, much ſmaller than the laſt, being not more than a foot and a half in length. It is very tractable, good-natured, and eaſily tamed; is ſuppoſed to have been the *Pithecos* of the ancients. It lives in woods, and feeds on fruits and inſects.—Troops of them aſſemble together, and defend themſelves from the attacks of wild beaſts in the deſert by throwing a cloud of ſand behind them, which blinds their purſuers, and facilitates their eſcape.



THE GIBBON

is diſtinguiſhed by the extraordinary length of its arms, which reach to the ground when its body is upright, and give it a diſguſting appearance. Its face is flat, and of a tawny colour, ſurrounded with a circle of grey hair, which adds to the ſingularity of its aſpect; its eyes are large and deep ſunk; ears round and naked; body covered on all parts with black rough hair, except its buttocks, which are quite naked.

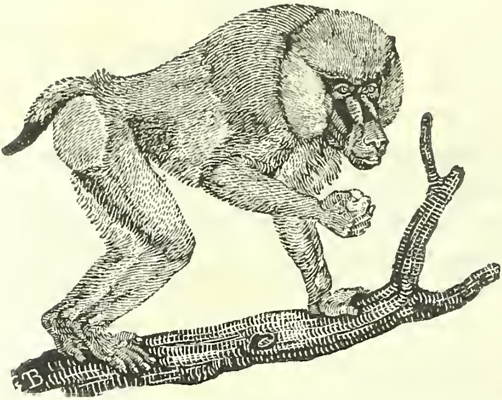
It is a mild, gentle, and tractable animal; feeds on fruits, leaves, and barks of trees; is a native of the Eaſt-Indies, Sumatra, and the Molucca iſles; and meaſures from three to four feet in height.



THE MAGOT, OR BARBARY APE,

is wilder and more untractable than the others. His head is large, and his noſe prominent: He likewiſe differs from the laſt, in having cheek pouches, which he frequently fills with food before he begins to eat: The canine teeth are large and ſtrong; ears round, and ſomewhat like thoſe of a man: The body is covered with hair of a brown colour, inclining to green; lighter on the belly. When ſtanding erect upon his hind legs, he is generally two feet and a half or three feet high. He walks oftener on four than on two feet; and, when reſting, ſupports his body on two prominent calloſities, ſituated on his buttocks.

The Magot is a very common ſpecies; and is found in moſt parts of Africa, from Barbary to the Cape of Good Hope.



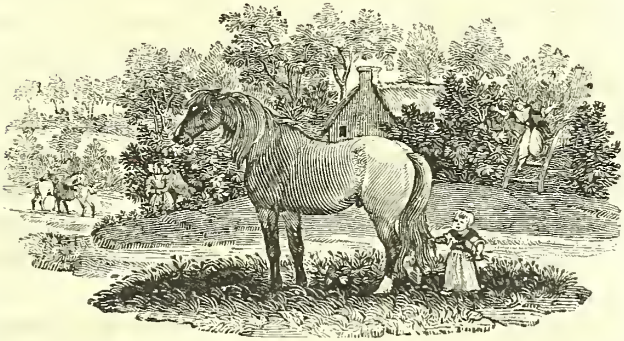
The BABOON

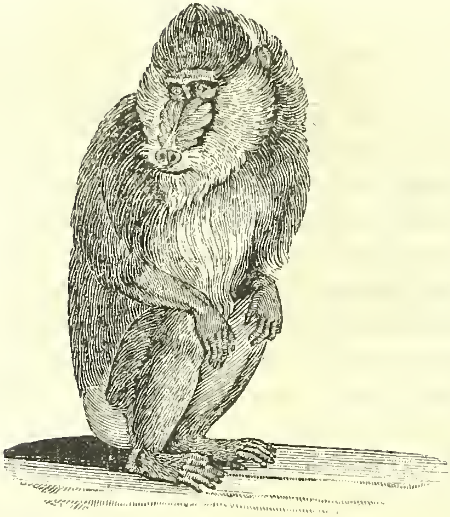
differs from animals of the Ape kind, not only in external appearance, but alſo in temper and diſpoſition. Fierce, untractable, and libidinous, its diſpoſition ſeems to partake of the hideous and diſguſting deformities of its outward figure.—Its body is thick, compact, and nervous; and its ſtrength prodigious.——Neither art nor careſſes can render it in any degree docile or obedient. It ſeems to be continually fretting with rage, and ſeeking every opportunity of ſhewing its ſavage and vicious propenſities.——In a ſtate of captivity, it muſt be kept cloſely confined; and, even in that ſtate, we have ſeen one ſhake the bars of its cage ſo powerfully with its hands, as to excite the utmoſt terror in the ſpectators.

This animal, of which we have given a very faithful repreſentation from the life, was about four feet high when ſtanding on its hind legs: Its head was large, ſhoulders of an amazing ſtrength and thickneſs, its muzzle long and thick, eyes ſmall and deep ſunk, its canine teeth very large and formidable, and it had pouches in its cheeks: The hair on its head was long, and formed a very elegant toupee from its forehead and each ſide of its face, which, when angry, it erected; the hair on the body was uniformly of a light reddiſh-brown; the tail ſhort, and darker at the end; buttocks red and naked.

The Baboon inhabits the hotteſt parts of Africa; feeds on fruits, roots, and other vegetables.—Numerous troops ſometimes make their appearance, plundering gardens and cultivated grounds. They are extremely dexterous in throwing the fruit from one to another, and by this means will do incredible damage in a very ſhort time.

The female brings forth only one young at a time, which ſhe carries in her arms, and ſuckles at her breaſt. —Notwithſtanding its libidinous diſpoſition, it will not breed in temperate climates.





The Great Ribbed-nose BABOON.

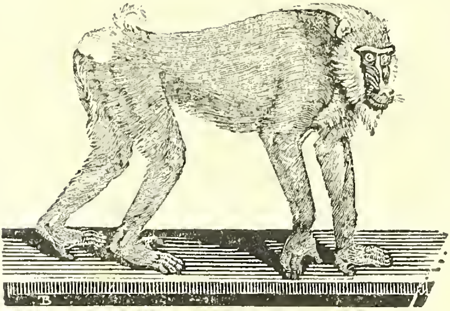
This ſingular creature is no leſs remarkable for its great ſize and ſtrength, than for the variety of beautiful colours on different parts of its body. Its noſe is marked with broad ribs on each ſide, of a fine violet-blue colour: A vermilion line begins a little above the eyes; and, running down on each ſide of the noſe, which is ſomewhat ſimilar to that of a Hog, ſpreads over the tip of it: The inſides of the ears are blue, which gradually ſoftens to a purple, and terminates in vermilion; the rump is alſo of a vermilion colour; and the beautiful colours on the hips are gradations from red to blue: The hair on the forehead is long, turns back, and forms a kind of pointed creſt: Its beard is dark at the roots, orange at the middle, and yellow at the end: The back and legs are covered with ſhort hair, of a dark brown colour, mixed with yellow; the breaſt and belly with long whitiſh hair, ſpeckled with ſmall dark ſpots: Its tail is ſhort and hairy, nails flat, feet and hands black and naked.

One of this kind was exhibited about twelve years ago in the North of England. It was five feet high, extremely fierce, libidinous, and ſtrong. At the ſight of women, it diſcovered marks of the moſt violent paſſion: It once caught hold of a lady, who was ſo incautious as to approach too near it; and ſhe was with ſome difficulty reſcued by the interference of the keeper. Its voice was ſtrong and harſh, not unlike the ordinary growl of the Lion. It generally went upon its four feet, unleſs obliged by its keeper to ſtand erect. Its moſt uſual attitude was ſitting on its rump, with its arms placed before it.

This creature inhabits the hotter parts of Africa.—— Schreber ſays, it lives on ſucculent fruits and nuts, is fond of eggs, will put eight at once into its pouches, then take them out one by one, break them at the end, and ſwallow the contents.

Our repreſentation of this animal was done from a drawing in the poſſeſſion of the Rev. Mr Egerton, taken from the life by an eminent painter.

We ſuppoſe the *Mandrill* of Buffon to be a variety of this ſpecies.

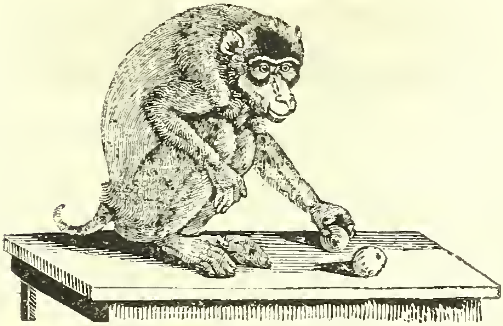


THE SMALL RIBBED-NOSE BABOON

ſeems to agree in every reſpect with that deſcribed by Mr Pennant, in the firſt volume of his Hiſtory of Quadrupeds, under the name of the MANDRILL.

The annexed cut was done from the living animal, in the poſſeſſion of Mr Rayne, ſurgeon, in Newcaſtle.

It is about fifteen inches in height; its face flat, of a fine blue colour; eyes bright hazel, exceedingly brilliant and lively; the cheeks marked with ſmall ribs, bounded with thick buſhy hair, of a greeniſh colour, beautifully ſpeckled with black, falling back on each ſide; the hair on the forehead is of the ſame colour, very long, and runs up to a point on the top of the ſhoulders; the muzzle is broad, and furniſhed with ſhort hair, thinly ſcattered on each ſide; on the chin it has a ſhort thin beard, ending in a point, where it is of an orange colour; the hair on the body is dark brown, mixed with ſhades of green on the back and ſides,—the haunches duſky; the ears are ſmall, naked, and pointed; the tail ſhort and hairy; the buttocks bare, and of a red fleſh-colour; hands and feet naked: It has cheek pouches; feeds on fruits, nuts, roots, and other vegetables. It is lively, playful, and full of miſchievous frolics; walks commonly on all four, is in continual motion, and leaps with aſtoniſhing agility.——This ſpecies is ſaid to come from the coaſt of Guinea.

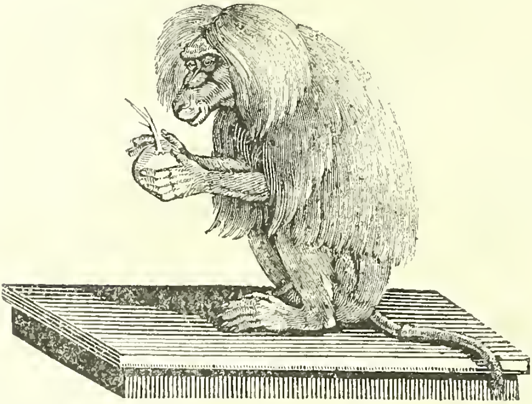


THE MAIMON, OR PIG-TAILED BABOON,

ſo termed from its ſhort naked pig-like tail, is the leaſt of all the Baboon kind; a gentle, mild, and tractable animal; very lively and frolicſome; but has none of that impudent petulance ſo peculiar to moſt of its ſpecies.—— Its muzzle is large and thick; face and ears naked, and of a fleſh colour; the hair on the head and back is of a deep olive, paleſt on the belly; it has hazel eyes, cheek pouches, calloſities on the buttocks, which are naked, and of a red colour.——It is a native of Sumatra and Japan.

One of this kind was ſhewn in the North in 1788, from which this drawing was made.

It is a curious circumſtance, that not only this, but every animal of the Baboon and Monkey kind we have yet ſeen, have ſhewn a remarkable greedineſs for tobacco, muſtard, and even ſnuff, which they eat without expreſſing the ſmalleſt inconvenience, and always ſeem extremely deſirous for more.



THE DOG-FACED BABOON

is diſtinguiſhed by a longer tail than the reſt of its kind: In this reſpect, it ſeems to bear ſome affinity to the Monkey, and has been mentioned under that denomination by ſeveral naturaliſts.

We may obſerve here, that, in tracing the progreſs of animated Nature, we are led, by the moſt imperceptible gradations, from one kind to another: The line of ſeparation ſeems ſo faintly drawn, that we are frequently at a loſs how to fix the boundaries of one claſs without encroaching upon that of another; and, notwithſtanding the regularity and order which every-where prevail among the numerous families that inhabit the earth, the beſt and moſt approved ſyſtems of arrangement fall infinitely ſhort of preciſion: They ſerve, indeed, to direct us to the general characters which form the diſtinguiſhing features of each genus, but are very inadequate to diſcriminate the intermingled ſhades and nice touches by which all are diverſified.

The drawing of this animal was taken from one ſhewn in London under the name of the PERSIAN SAVAGE.—Its head was large; muzzle long and thick; eyes ſmall; face naked, and of an olive colour; the hair on its forehead ſeparated in the middle, and hung down on each ſide of the face, from thence down its back as far as its waiſt; it was long and ſhaggy, of a bluiſh-grey colour, freckled with dark ſpots; the hair on the lower part of the body ſhort; its buttocks bare and red.

That deſcribed by Mr Pennant, which ſeems to agree with this, is repreſented as very fierce and untractable.

It inhabits the hotteſt parts of Africa and Aſia, lives in troops, and commits great depredations in gardens and cultivated grounds; is above five feet high, exceedingly ſtrong, vicious, and impudent.

THE URSINE BABOON

is not unlike the laſt, but rather leſs. Its noſe is long; head large; ears ſhort; forehead high and prominent, terminating in a ridge; the body thick and ſtrong, covered with long duſky hair, which gives it the appearance of a young Bear; its tail half the length of the body; buttocks red.

This animal is very numerous about the Cape of Good

Hope.—Troops of them aſſemble together, and make expeditions for the ſake of plunder, in which they obſerve the utmoſt precaution. To prevent ſurprize, they place a centinel, which, upon ſight of a man, gives a loud yell; when the whole troop retreats with the greateſt precipitation. It is highly entertaining to ſee the females carrying off their young ones clinging to their backs; whilſt their pouches are crammed ſo full of fruit, that they ſeem ready to burſt. They ſometimes form a line, and throw the fruit from one to another, in order to carry it off the more expeditiouſly.

THE WANDEROU

is a native of Ceylon and the Eaſt-Indies.——Its head is thick and long, and ſurrounded with a large quantity of white hair, which falls down below the chin, forming a rough, ſhaggy beard; the reſt of the body is covered with a dark-brown coat, almoſt black.——Like all animals of this kind, it is wild and vicious; but, when taken young, may eaſily be tamed; and appears to be more ſuſceptible of education than other Baboons.

There are ſeveral varieties of this ſpecies.—The bodies of ſome are black, with white beards; in others, the body is whitiſh, and the beard black: Some are found entirely white; but this ſpecies is extremely rare, and is ſaid to be ſtronger and more miſchievous than the others.

Theſe bearded Baboons are much eſteemed for the gravity of their appearance; and are uſed by the Indians in their ceremonies and ſhows, in which they are ſaid to acquit themſelves to the admiration of the ſpectators.

THE MACAQUE,

or HARE-LIPPED MONKEY of Mr Pennant, is placed next to the Baboons, and makes the neareſt approach to them in the form of its body, which is ſhort and thick: Its head and muzzle are large; its viſage ugly, naked, and wrinkled; and its noſtrils divided, like thoſe of a Hare: Its tail, however, is long, like that of a Monkey: The colour of the hair on the upper part of the body is a greeniſh-aſh,—lighter on the breaſt and belly.

There are ſeveral varieties, which differ both in ſize and colour.

This animal is found in Guinea, Congo, and ſome of the ſouthern parts of Africa.—They go in troops, and do infinite miſchief to plantations of millet, which they carry off under their arms and in their mouths. They are extremely nice and delicate in their choice; and, by pulling up what does not pleaſe them, do more damage than by what they really eat.

THE PATAS, OR RED MONKEY,

is nearly of the ſame ſize with the Macaque, and inhabits the ſame country; its body is, however, rather longer, its face leſs hideous, and its hair more beautiful. It is remarkable for the brilliancy of its coat, which is of ſo bright a red, as to have the appearance of being painted.

There are two varieties of this kind: The one is diſtinguiſhed by a black line above the eyes, extending from ear to ear; in the other, the line is white. Both have long hair under the chin, and round the cheeks; which in the firſt is yellow, and in the ſecond white: The noſe is black; the under part of the body of an aſh colour, tinged with yellow.

Theſe Monkies are very numerous on the banks of the river Senegal.—They are ſo curious, as ſometimes to deſcend from the tops of trees to the extremities of the branches, while boats are paſſing, and ſeem to obſerve them with great attention. If not diſturbed, their familiarity becomes troubleſome: They break off branches, throw them at the paſſengers, and frequently with ſo ſure an aim, as to annoy them not a little; but, upon being ſhot at, they ſet up moſt hideous cries, endeavour to revenge themſelves by collecting more offenſive materials, ſuch as ſtones, dirt, &c. which they throw at the enemy, and ſoon retire.

Travellers relate, that in Guinea Monkies are frequently ſeen together in troops of forty or fifty, plundering gardens and fields of corn with great boldneſs. One of them ſtands on a tree, liſtens, and looks about on all ſides, while the reſt are buſy. Upon the leaſt appearance of interruption, he ſets up a loud cry to alarm the party; when they immediately fly off with the booty they have collected, leaping from tree to tree with prodigious agility.

THE MALBROUCK

differs little from the laſt, either in diſpoſition or manners.——It is a native of Bengal, is fond of fruits, frequently ſteals into plantations of ſugar-canes, loads itſelf with them, and, if purſued, will throw away a part to carry off the remainder with more eaſe.——It eſcapes the purſuit of Tigers and other wild beaſts, by climbing trees, and leaping from one to another. Serpents are the moſt deadly enemies of this and all the Monkey kind: They follow them to the higheſt branches of the trees, and frequently ſurprize them whilſt they are ſleeping.

THE CHINESE BONNET MONKEY

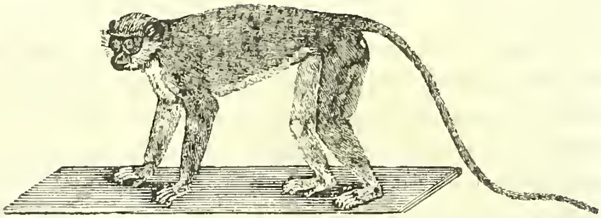
appears to be only a variety of the Malbrouck: The principal difference conſiſts in its having the hair on its head diſpoſed in the form of a flat bonnet, from which its name has been derived. It inhabits the ſame country, and lives in the ſame manner.

When fruits and ſucculent plants fail them, theſe animals are ſaid to eat inſects, and ſometimes watch by the ſea-ſide for crabs and other ſhell-fiſh, which they are very dexterous in catching.

They are never thoroughly tamed, and cannot be truſted without a chain.——They do not breed when in a ſtate of confinement, even in their own country; but require to be at perfect freedom in their native woods.

THE MANGABEY

is diſtinguiſhed from all other Monkies by a very remarkable character. Its eye-lids are naked, of a pure white colour; and round each eye there is a prominent ring: The hair on the head and body is of a yellowiſh-brown colour; that on the belly white. Some of them have a broad collar of white hair ſurrounding their neck and face.—They are natives of Madagaſcar.



The CALLITRIX, or Green MONKEY,

ſo called from its beautiful hair, which, on the upper part of the body and tail, is of a fine green colour; the throat, belly, and under ſide of the limbs, are of a ſilvery whiteneſs: The tail is eighteen inches long, length of the body thirteen, height eight and a half.

It is common in the Cape de Verd iſlands and the Eaſt-Indies; and is alſo found in Mauritania, and in the territories of ancient Carthage.—Hence it is probable, ſays M. Buffon, that it was known to the Greeks and Romans; and that it was one of thoſe long-tailed Monkies, to which they gave the general name of Callitrix.

It ſeems to be the ſame kind as that mentioned by Adanſon; who relates, that the woods of Podor, along the river Niger, are full of Green Apes, which, from their colour, are ſcarcely diſcernible among the branches of the trees where they live.

The animal from which the above was taken, was a female, in the poſſeſſion of William Hargrave, eſq; of Shawdon.

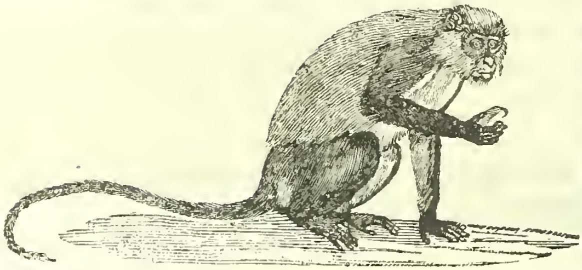
THE MUSTACHE

is a beautiful little animal, having a tuft of yellow hair on each cheek, and another on the top of the head, which is long and upright: Its face is of a bluiſh colour, body of a greeniſh aſh, breaſt and belly lighter. Its length is only one foot; that of the tail eighteen inches. —It is a native of Guinea.

THE TALAPOIN

is a native of the Eaſt-Indies, where it is ſuffered to multiply without moleſtation, owing to the religious ſuperſtition of the bramins, which forbids them to take the life of any kind of animal whatever. They are ſo tame and familiar, that numbers of them frequently come into their towns, enter the houſes, and, if not prevented, help themſelves to whatever they meet with that is agreeable to them; ſuch as fruits, ſweetmeats, &c.

The Talapoin is about twelve inches long: Its head is round; ears black, and ſhaped like the human; eyes of a bright hazel colour, with black pupils; the hair on the back, upper part of the body, and limbs, of a duſky yellow, tinged with green,—the belly lighter; its tail very long, ſlender, and of an olive colour.



THE VARIED MONKEY, OR MONA,

is beſt known of all the Monkey tribe, being more frequently brought into Europe than any other.——It is a native of Barbary and other northern parts of Africa, Arabia, and Perſia; where it is called the MONA; from which our general term is derived.

Its noſe is ſhort and thick; its face of a dark lead colour; the beard on each ſide long, and of a greeniſh-yellow; the top of the head is bright yellow, freckled with black; back and ſides deep brown, with black freckles; legs, feet, and tail, black; inſide of the thighs of a pale blue colour, thinly covered with whitiſh hairs; and on each ſide of the rump, cloſe by the tail, is a large white ſpot.

The drawing and deſcription were taken from the living animal, in the poſſeſſion of Robert Hedley, eſq; of Newcaſtle. It was remarkably gentle, tame, and familiar; and ſeemed to have ſome attachment to thoſe with whom it was acquainted. Its length was eighteen inches; tail about two feet. It was fed with bread, roaſted meat, and fruit of all kinds, of which it was particularly fond.

All the Baboons and Monkies we have yet deſcribed, are furniſhed with cheek-pouches, capable of containing food ſufficient to ſupply them for a day or two: They alſo ſerve as receptacles for whatever they obtain more than ſupplies their preſent wants. But we have thought it unneceſſary to repeat this circumſtance in the account of every animal of thoſe kinds.

THE DOUC

differs from other Monkies, in having no calloſities on its buttocks, which are entirely covered with hair; it is alſo much larger, being nearly four feet high when erect. Its face is ſhort and rather flat, furniſhed on each ſide with long hairs, of a pale yellow colour; its body is beautifully variegated with differently coloured hair; round the neck there is a collar of a bluiſh-purple colour; the top of the head and body are grey; breaſt and belly yellow; arms white below, and black above; tail white; feet black; face and ears red; lips black; and round each eye there is a black ring.——It is found in Cochin-China, and in the iſland of Madagaſcar; where it is called the SIFAC.

M. Buffon places the Douc in the laſt claſs of thoſe animals of the Monkey kind that belong to the old continent; and deſcribes it as forming a ſhade between them and the Monkies of America, which he diſtinguiſhes by the generic names of SAPAJOUS and SAGOINS.——They both of them differ from Monkies, in having neither cheek-pouches nor calloſities on their buttocks; and they are diſtinguiſhed from each other by characters peculiar to each. The Sapajou is furniſhed with a prehenſile tail, the under part of which is generally covered with a ſmooth naked ſkin: The animal can coil it up or extend it at pleaſure, ſuſpend itſelf by its extremity on the branches of trees, or uſe it as a hand to lay hold of any thing it wants. The tails of all the Sagoins, on the contrary, are longer than thoſe of the Sapajous, ſtraight, flaccid, and entirely covered with hair.—This difference alone is ſufficient to diſtinguiſh a Sapajou from a Sagoin.

We now proceed to the hiſtory and deſcription of the moſt remarkable of this numerous race.

THE OUARINE, OR PREACHER,

is the largeſt of all the American Monkies, being about the ſize of a large Fox. Its body is covered with long ſmooth hair, of a ſhining black colour, forming a kind of ruff round the animal's neck: Its tail is long, and always twiſted at the end.

Great numbers of theſe Monkies inhabit the woods of Brazil and Guiana; and, from the noiſe they make, are called *Howling Monkies.* Several of them aſſemble together; and placing themſelves in a kind of regular order, one of them begins firſt with a loud tone, which may be heard to a great diſtance; the reſt ſoon join in a general chorus, the moſt diſſonant and tremendous that can be conceived: On a ſudden they all ſtop, except the firſt, who finiſhes ſingly; and the aſſembly breaks up.

Theſe Monkies are ſaid to be very fierce, and ſo wild and miſchievous, that they can neither be conquered nor tamed.——They feed on fruits, grain, herbs, and ſometimes inſects; live in trees, and leap from bough to bough with wonderful agility, catching hold with their hands and tails as they throw themſelves from one branch to another, and maintain themſelves ſo firmly, that, even when ſhot, they remain fixed to the trees where they die.

The fleſh of the Ouarine is good; and is not only eaten by the natives, but alſo by Europeans who frequent thoſe parts.

THE COAITA

is ſomewhat leſs than the Ouarine. Its body and limbs are long and ſlender; hair black and rough; tail long, and naked on the under ſide.

This animal is found in the neighbourhood of Carthagena, in Guiana, Brazil, and Peru.—Great numbers aſſociate together.—They ſeldom appear on the ground; but live moſtly in trees, and feed on fruits: When theſe are not to be had, they are ſaid to eat fiſhes, worms, and inſects; are extremely dexterous in catching their prey, and make great uſe of their tails in ſeizing it.

The Coaitas are very lively and active.—In paſſing from one tree to another, they ſometimes form a chain, linked to each other by their tails; and ſwing in that manner till the loweſt catches hold of a branch, and draws up the reſt.——When fruits are ripe, they are generally fat; and their fleſh is then ſaid to be excellent.

There are many varieties of the Coaita, which differ chiefly in colour. Some are totally black, others brown, and ſome have white hair on the under parts of the body. —They are called *Spider Monkies* by Edwards, on account of the length and ſlenderneſs of their legs and tails.

M. Buffon ſuppoſes the EXQUIMA to be another variety of this ſpecies.—It is nearly of the ſame ſize; but its colour is variegated. The hair on its back is black and yellow; its throat and belly white.—Its manner of living is the ſame with that of the Coaita; and it inhabits the ſame countries.——Both kinds are remarkable in having only four fingers on each hand, being quite deſtitute of the thumb.

THE SAJOU, OR CAPUCIN.

There are two varieties of this ſpecies,—the Brown and the Grey; which, in other reſpects, are perfectly ſimilar. Their faces are of a fleſh colour, thinly covered with down; tails long, full of hair on the upper ſide, naked below, and prehenſile; hands black and naked; length of the body about twelve inches.

Theſe animals inhabit Guiana, are extremely lively and agile, and their conſtitution ſeems better adapted to the temperate climates of Europe than moſt of the Sapajou kind. M. Buffon mentions a few inſtances of their having produced in France.

The Sajous are very capricious in their attachments, being fond of particular perſons, and diſcovering the greateſt averſion to others.

THE SAI, OR WEEPER,

inhabits Brazil; is very mild, docile, and timid; of a grave and ſerious aſpect; has an appearance of weeping; and, when irritated, makes a plaintive noiſe.—It is about fourteen inches long; the tail longer than the body; hair on the back and ſides of a deep brown colour, mixed with red on the lower parts.——There is a variety with white hair on the throat and breaſt.

Great numbers of theſe creatures aſſemble together, particularly in ſtormy weather; and make a great chattering.——They live much in trees, which bear a podded fruit as large as beans, on which they principally feed.

THE SAIMIRI, OR ORANGE MONKEY,

is a moſt beautiful animal; but ſo extremely delicate, that it cannot well bear to be brought from its own climate to one leſs warm and temperate.

It is about the ſize of a Squirrel: Its head is round; eyes remarkably lively and brilliant; ears large; hair on the body ſhort and fine, of a ſhining gold colour; feet orange; its tail is very long: Its prehenſile faculty is much weaker than the reſt of the Sapajous; and on that account, it may be ſaid to form a ſhade between them and the Sagoins, which have long tails, entirely covered with hair, but of no uſe in ſuſpending their bodies from the branches of trees or other objects.

THE SAKI

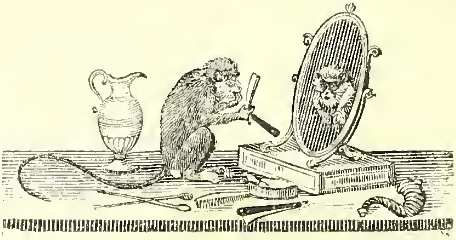
is ſometimes called the FOX-TAILED MONKEY; becauſe its tail, like that of the Fox, is covered with long hair. Its body is about ſeventeen inches in length; hair long,—of a dark brown colour on the back, lighter on the under ſide; its face is tawny, and covered with a fine ſhort whitiſh down; the forehead and ſides of the face are white; its hands and feet are black, with claws inſtead of nails.

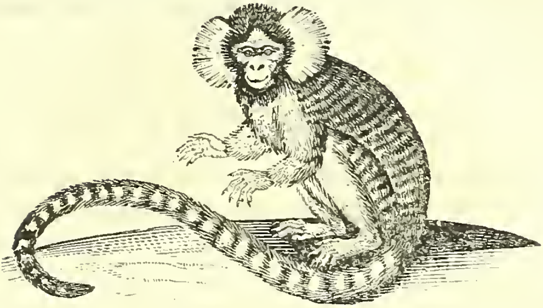
The Saki is a native of Guiana, where it is called the *Saccawinkee.*

THE TAMARIN

is about the ſize of a Squirrel: Its face is naked, of a ſwarthy fleſh colour; its upper lip ſomewhat divided; its ears are very large and erect, from whence it is called the GREAT-EARED MONKEY; its hair is ſoft, ſhaggy, and of a black colour; hands and feet covered with orange-coloured hair, very fine and ſmooth; its nails long and crooked; tail black, and twice the length of its body.

The Tamarin inhabits the hotter parts of South-America; is a lively, pleaſant animal; eaſily tamed; but ſo delicate, that it cannot bear a removal to a leſs temperate climate.





THE OUISTITI, OR CAGVI,

is ſtill ſmaller than the Tamarin; its head and body not exceeding ſeven inches in length: Its tail is long, buſhy, and, like that of the Macauco, marked with alternate rings of black and aſh colour; its face is naked, of a ſwarthy fleſh colour; ears large, and like the human; body beautifully marked with duſky, aſh-coloured, and reddiſh bars; its nails are ſharp; and its fingers like thoſe of a Squirrel.

The Ouſtiti inhabits Brazil; feeds on fruits, vegetables, inſects, and ſnails; and is fond of fiſh.

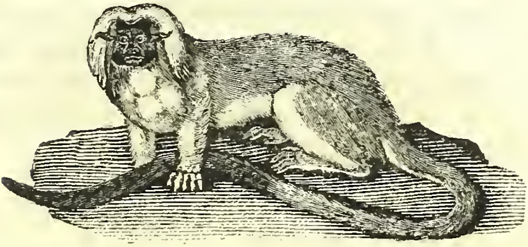
Mr Edwards gives a deſcription of one of theſe animals, accompanied with an excellent figure.—He ſays, that, one day being at liberty, it darted upon a ſmall gold-fiſh that was in a baſon, which it killed and devoured with avidity; and that afterwards ſmall eels were given to it, of which it ſeemed at firſt afraid, from their twiſting themſelves round its neck; but that it ſoon overcame and eat them.—He likewiſe ſays, that the Ouſtiti produced young ones in Portugal, which at firſt were extremely ugly, having hardly any hair on their bodies.

They adhered cloſely to the teats of the mother; and, when grown a little larger, fixed themſelves upon her back, from whence ſhe could not eaſily diſengage them, without rubbing them off againſt a wall: Upon theſe occaſions, the male always allowed them to mount upon his back to relieve the female.

THE MARIKINA

is by ſome called the LION-APE, from the quantity of hair which ſurrounds its face, falling backwards like a mane; its tail is alſo ſomewhat buſhy at the end: Its face is flat, and of a dull purple colour; its hair long, bright, and ſilky,—from whence it is likewiſe called the SILKY MONKEY; it is of a pale yellow colour on the body; the hair round the face of a bright bay, inclining to red; its hands and feet are without hair, and of the ſame colour as the face; its body is ten inches long, tail thirteen.

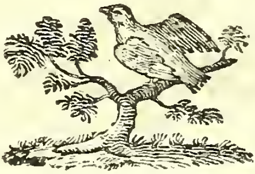
This creature is a native of Guiana, is very gentle and lively, and ſeems to be more hardy than the other Sagoins.—Buffon ſays, that one of them lived at Paris ſeveral years, with no other precaution than keeping it in a warm room during winter.

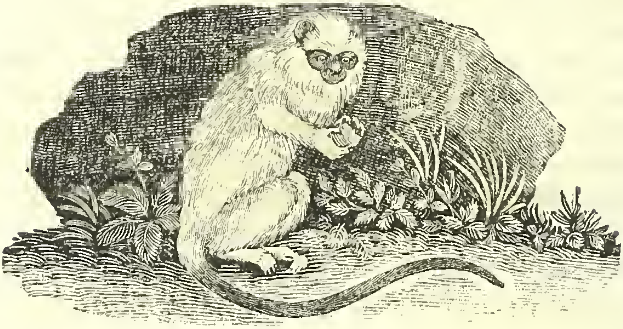


THE PINCHE, OR RED-TAILED MONKEY,

is ſomewhat larger than the Ouſtiti.—It is remarkable in having a great quantity of ſmooth white hair, which falls down from the top of its head on each ſide, forming a curious contraſt with its face, which is black, thinly covered with a fine grey down: Its eyes are black and lively; throat black; hair on the back and ſhoulders of a light reddiſh-brown colour; breaſt, belly, and legs, white; the tail is long, of a red colour from the rump to the middle, from thence to the end it is black.

The Pinche inhabits the woods on the banks of the river of Amazons; is a lively, beautiful little animal; has a ſoft whiſtling voice, reſembling more the chirping of a bird than the cry of a quadruped.——It frequently walks with its long tail over its back.





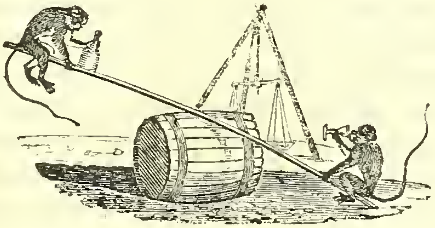
THE MICO, OR FAIR MONKEY,

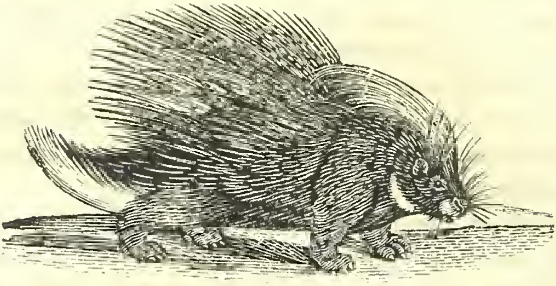
is the laſt that we ſhall deſcribe of this numerous race, and is the moſt beautiful of them all.—Its head is ſmall and round; face and ears of ſo lively a vermilion colour, as to appear the effect of art; its body is covered with long hair, of a bright ſilvery whiteneſs, and uncommon elegance; tail long, and of a ſhining dark cheſnut colour.

It frequents the banks of the river of Amazons, where it was diſcovered by M. Condamine, who preſerved one alive till almoſt within ſight of the French coaſt; but it died before his arrival.

We have now laid before our readers a few of the moſt noted varieties of this numerous race: Many others might likewiſe be added to ſwell the account; but of theſe, little more is known than their names and places of habitation. There are, probably, ſtill more, which neither the aſſiduity of the naturaliſt, nor the curioſity of the traveller, has been able to draw from their native woods. Indeed, there is great room to conjecture, that the variations of the Monkey kind are ſomewhat like thoſe of the Dog, continually encreaſing; for it is very obvious, that, among the ſmaller kinds of Monkies, the characteriſtic differences do not appear to be great, however they may vary in ſize or in colour; and it is certain, that the modes of living, faculties, and propenſities of theſe animals, are ſtrikingly ſimilar: So that, if we reaſon from analogy on this ſubject, we may fairly conclude, that different kinds of Monkies may unite and propagate with the ſame facility as the Goat and the Sheep, or the almoſt innumerable kinds of Dogs.

The greater part of the cuts we have given of the Baboons, Apes, and Monkies, we were fortunate in procuring from living ſubjects, or drawings which might be depended on: And it is to be lamented, that, amongſt the numbers that have been publiſhed, ſo few ſhould poſſeſs that peculiar character ſo obſervable in the various members of this imitative tribe, which it is wholly impoſſible to trace from a ſtuffed ſkin, void of every kind of expreſſion; the muſcular parts, which ſhould convey the idea of action, being generally ill ſupplied, or entirely wanting.





THE PORCUPINE.

THIS animal, ſo formidable in its appearance, would be much more truly ſo, if it poſſeſſed the power erroneouſly aſcribed to it, of darting its quills at its enemies, and wounding them at a diſtance.

Though denied the privilege of making offenſive war, it is ſufficiently armed to reſiſt the attacks of animals much more powerful than itſelf.—Upon the ſmalleſt irritation, it raiſes its quills, and ſhakes them with great violence, directing them to that quarter from whence it is in danger of being attacked, and ſtriking at the object of its reſentment with its quills at the ſame time. We have obſerved, on an occaſion of this ſort, at a time when the animal was moulting or caſting its quills, that they would fly out, to the diſtance of a few yards, with ſuch force, as to bend the points of them againſt the board where they ſtruck; and it is not improbable, that a circumſtance of this kind may have given riſe to an opinion of its power to uſe them in a more effectual manner.

The largeſt of the quills are from ten to fifteen inches in length, thick in the middle, and extremely ſharp at the end: Between the quills, the hair is thin, black, and briſtly: The tail is covered with white quills, which are ſhort and tranſparent: Its legs are ſhort; and it has four toes before, and five behind.

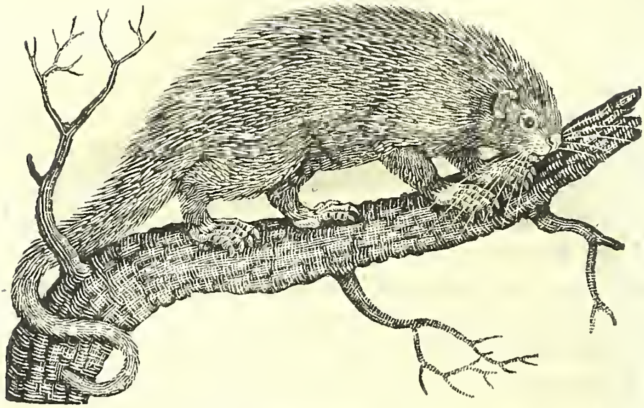
The Porcupine is found in India, Perſia, and Paleſtine: It is likewiſe common in all parts of Africa.—The Indians hunt it for its quills, of which they make a kind of embroidery: They alſo eat its fleſh.

There are Porcupines in a wild ſtate in Spain and Italy, though they are not originally natives of any part of Europe.—Their fleſh is ſometimes expoſed in the markets at Rome, where it is eaten.

The Italian Porcupines have ſhorter quills and a leſſer creſt than thoſe of Aſia or Africa.

The Porcupine is an inoffenſive animal; lives on fruits, roots, and vegetables; ſleeps during the day, and feeds by night.

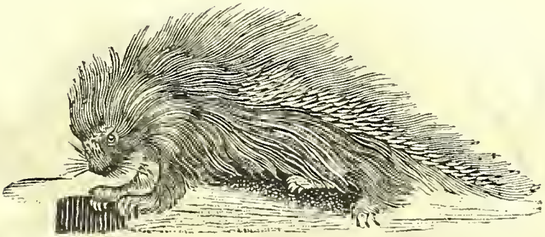
The female goes with young ſeven months, and brings forth one at a time.——The drawing of this animal was made from the life.



THE BRAZILIAN PORCUPINE

differs ſo greatly from the laſt, that it can ſcarcely be ſaid to bear any relation to it, except in its being covered with ſpines about three inches in length: They are white, very ſharp, and have a bar of black near the points. The breaſt, belly, and lower part of the legs, are covered with ſtrong briſtly hairs of a brown colour. Its tail is long and ſlender, and almoſt naked at the end: The animal uſes it in deſcending trees, by twiſting it round the branches.

It inhabits Mexico and Brazil, lives in woods, and feeds on fruits and ſmall birds. It preys by night, and ſleeps in the day. It makes a noiſe like the grunting of a Swine, and grows very fat.—Its fleſh is white, and eſteemed good to eat.

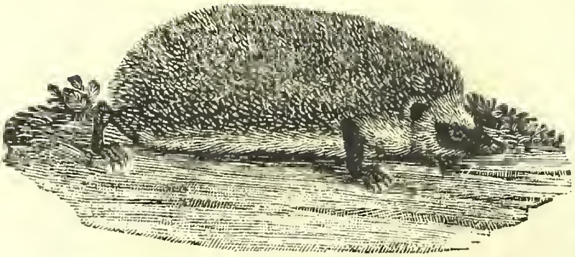


THE COENDOU

of M. Buffon, which he likewiſe calls the BRAZILIAN PORCUPINE, inhabits the ſame countries with the laſt, and its habits and mode of living are ſimilar; but, in reſpect to its figure, it ſeems to be a very different animal. Its ears are ſhort, and hid in the hair; its head, body, and upper part of its tail, are covered with long ſoft hair, in which are interſperſed a number of ſtrong ſharp ſpines; its tail is ſhorter than that of the preceding ſpecies, and it uſes it in the ſame manner in deſcending trees, frequently ſuſpending itſelf from the branches.

An animal, ſimilar to this, is found in Canada, and various parts of North-America, as high as Hudſon's Bay.—It is called the URSON, or CANADA PORCUPINE.

Many of the trading Indians, during their long excurſions, depend on this creature for a ſupply of food, and eſteem it both wholeſome and pleaſant: They alſo make uſe of the quills to trim the edges of their deer-ſkin habits, ſo as to look like fringe; and ſtick them in their noſes and ears to make holes for their rings.



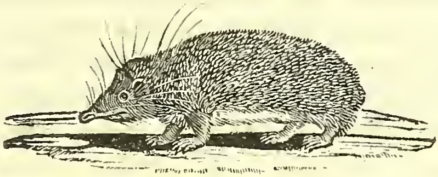
The HEDGE-HOG, or URCHIN,

DESTITUTE of every other means of defence, is provided by Nature with a ſpinous armour, which ſecures it from the attacks of all the ſmaller beaſts of prey; ſuch as Weaſels, Martins, Polecats, &c.—— When alarmed, it immediately collects itſelf into the form of a ball, and preſents on all ſides a ſurface covered with ſharp points, which few animals are hardy enough to engage. The more it is harraſſed, the cloſer it rolls itſelf; till its fears become an additional means of ſafety, by cauſing it to void its urine, which, running over its whole body, frequently obliges its enemy to deſiſt, diſguſted by the ſmell.

There are few Dogs that will venture to attack the Hedge-hog, except ſuch as are trained to the ſport, merely to gratify the cruel pleaſure of ſeeing a harmleſs animal endure, with aſtoniſhing patience, the moſt wanton outrages; whilſt the Dogs, becoming more enraged at the wounds they receive from its prickles, at laſt oblige it to unfold itſelf; and it then ſoon falls a victim to their fury.

The Hedge-hog generally reſides in ſmall thickets and hedges; lives on fruits, worms, beetles, and all kinds of inſects; conceals itſelf in the day, and feeds during the night.—It is eaſily taken; for it neither flies nor attempts to defend itſelf; but, when touched, ſhrinks into its circular form, which it will not eaſily quit, unleſs thrown into water.

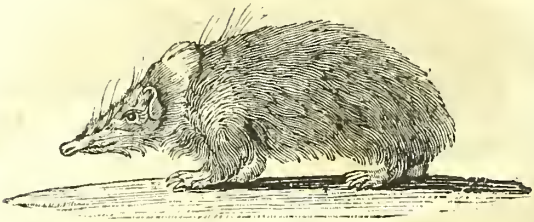
The Hedge-hog, in the winter, wraps itſelf up in a warm neſt, made of moſs, dried graſs, and leaves; and ſleeps out the rigours of that ſeaſon. It is frequently found ſo completely encircled with herbage on all ſides, that it reſembles a ball of dried leaves. When taken out and placed before a fire, it ſoon recovers from its torpid ſtate.



THE TENDRAC

is about the ſize of a Rat. The upper part of its body is covered with ſpines, ſhorter and ſmaller than thoſe of the Hedge-hog, which it ſomewhat reſembles, but does not roll itſelf up like that animal; the reſt of the body is covered with a kind of fine hard hair, of a whitiſh colour; about the head and noſe it has ſeveral long hairs, like whiſkers.

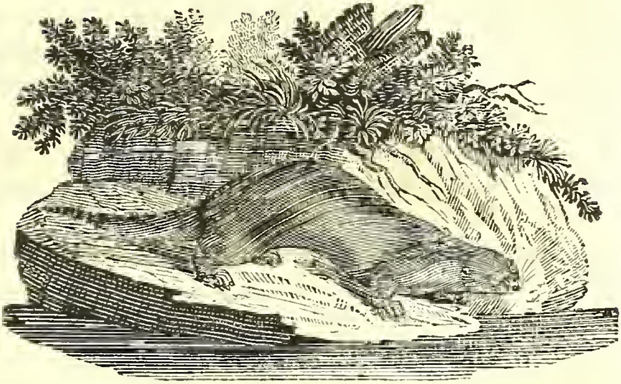
An animal ſimilar to this is mentioned by M. Buffon, under the name of



THE TANREC;

which is larger than the laſt, and has fewer briſtles: They only occupy the top of the head, and along the back, as far as the ſhoulders; thoſe on the neck are the longeſt, and ſtand erect: The reſt of the body is covered with a briſtly kind of hair, of a yellowiſh colour, among which are intermixed ſome black hairs, much longer than the other. Its noſe is long, and its ears more apparent than thoſe of the Tendrac.

Both theſe animals are natives of India.—They make a grunting noiſe, and are fond of wallowing in mud, like Hogs: They frequent the banks of rivers, can live a long time in the water, and are frequently caught in ſmall inlets of the ſea: They dig holes in the ground, where they continue in a kind of torpid ſtate during ſeveral months.—They are generally very fat; and the Indians eat their fleſh, though it is reckoned inſipid and ſtringy.



THE OTTER.

ALTHOUGH the Otter is not conſidered by naturaliſts as wholly amphibious, it is nevertheleſs capable of remaining a conſiderable time under water, and can purſue and take its prey in that element with great facility.

Its legs are very ſhort, but remarkably ſtrong, broad, and muſcular; on each foot are five toes, connected by ſtrong membranes, like thoſe of water fowl; its head is broad, of an oval form, and flat on the upper part; the body is long and round, and the tail tapers to a point; the eyes are brilliant, and placed in ſuch a manner, that the animal can ſee every object that is above it, which gives it a ſingular aſpect, very much reſembling an eel or an aſp; the ears are ſhort, and their orifice narrow.

The fur of the Otter is of a deep brown colour, with two ſmall light ſpots on each ſide of the noſe, and another under the chin.

This animal makes its neſt in ſome retired ſpot by the ſide of a lake or river, under a bank, where it has an eaſy and ſecure acceſs to the water, to which it immediately flies upon the leaſt alarm ; and, as it ſwims with great rapidity, generally eſcapes from its purſuers.

It deſtroys great quantities of fiſh ; and, in purſuit of its prey, has been obſerved commonly to ſwim againſt the ſtream.

As ſoon as the Otter has caught a fiſh, it immediately drags it to the ſhore ; devours a part, as far as the vent ; and, unleſs preſſed by extreme hunger, always leaves the remainder, and takes to the water in queſt of more.

Otters are generally taken in traps placed near their landing places, where they are carefully concealed in the ſand.——When hunted with Dogs, the old ones defend themſelves with great obſtinacy : They bite ſeverely, and do not readily quit their hold where they have once faſtened. An old Otter will never give up while it has life ; nor make the leaſt complaint, though wounded ever ſo much by the Dogs, nor even when transfixed with a ſpear.

There are many inſtances of Otters being tamed ; but in thoſe which have come to our knowledge, they were taken when young, accuſtomed by degrees to obedience and reſtraint, and became ſo far domeſticated, as to follow their maſter, anſwer to a name, and employ their excellent talents at fiſhing in his ſervice.

Otters, when taken young, may be eaſily reared and made tame.——We have ſeen two young ones ſucking a Bitch, and treated by her with as much tenderneſs as her own offspring.

William Collins, of Kimmerſton, near Wooler, had a tame Otter, which followed him wherever he went. He frequently carried it to fiſh in the river; and when ſatiated, it never failed returning to its maſter. One day, in the abſence of Collins, being taken out by his ſon to fiſh, inſtead of returning as uſual, it refuſed to come at the accuſtomed call, and was loſt. The father tried every means to recover it; and after ſeveral days ſearch, being near the place where his ſon had loſt it, and calling it by its name, to his inexpreſſible joy, it came creeping to his feet, and ſhewed many genuine marks of affection and firm attachment.—Its food, excluſive of fiſh, conſiſted chiefly of milk and haſty-pudding.

Some years ago, James Campbell, near Inverneſs, had a young Otter, which he brought up and tamed. It would follow him wherever he choſe; and, if called on by its name, would immediately obey. When apprehenſive of danger from Dogs, it ſought the protection of its maſter, and would endeavour to fly into his arms for greater ſecurity.—It was frequently employed in catching fiſh, and would ſometimes take eight or ten ſalmons in a day. If not prevented, it always made an attempt to break the fiſh behind the fin next the tail; and as ſoon as one was taken away, it immediately dived in purſuit of more. When tired, it would refuſe to fiſh any longer; and was then rewarded with as much fiſh as it could devour. Being ſatisfied with eating, it always curled itſelf round, and fell aſleep; in which ſtate it was generally carried home.——The ſame Otter fiſhed as well in the ſea as in a river, and took great numbers of codlings and other fiſh.——Its food was generally freſh fiſh, and ſometimes milk.

Another perſon, who kept a tame Otter, ſuffered it to follow him with his Dogs. It was very uſeful to him in fiſhing, by going into the water, and driving trouts and other fiſh towards the net.—It was remarkable, that the Dogs, though accuſtomed to the ſport, were ſo far from giving it the ſmalleſt moleſtation, that they would not even hunt an Otter whilſt it remained with them; on which account the owner was under the neceſſity of diſpoſing of it.

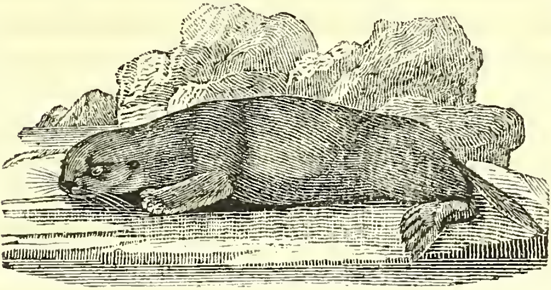
Notwithſtanding the Otter's avidity for fiſh, it will not eat it, unleſs it be perfectly freſh. When that cannot be procured, it is fed with milk, or pudding made of oatmeal, &c.

Otters are found in moſt parts of the world, with no great variation.—They are common in Guiana, and frequent the rivers and marſhes of that country. They are ſometimes ſeen in great numbers together; and are ſo fierce, that it is dangerous to come near them. They live in holes, which they make in the banks of the rivers.

The Otters of Cayenne are very large, weighing from ninety to one hundred pounds. They frequent the large rivers of that country. Their cry is loud, and may be heard at a great diſtance. They are of a dark brown colour.—Their fur is ſhorter than that of the Beaver, and very ſoft.

The SMALL OTTER, found in Poland and the North of Europe, is much leſs than the common Otter, and of a duſky brown colour. Its feet are broad, webbed, and covered with hair.—Its fur is very valuable, being next in beauty to that of the Sable.

This Otter is found alſo in North-America, where it is called the MINX; frequents the water, and lives on fiſh; is fond of poultry; frequently ſteals into the hen rooſts, bites off the heads of the fowls, and ſucks their blood; is very fetid; and, when irritated, has a moſt loathſome ſmell.—Its length, from noſe to tail, is twenty inches; tail four.—Its fur is of a dark brown colour, very gloſſy and beautiful.



The SEA-OTTER.

Vaſt numbers of theſe animals inhabit the coaſt of Kamtſchatka, and the numerous iſlands contiguous to it; as well as the oppoſite coaſts of America: They are alſo found in ſome of the larger rivers of South-America.

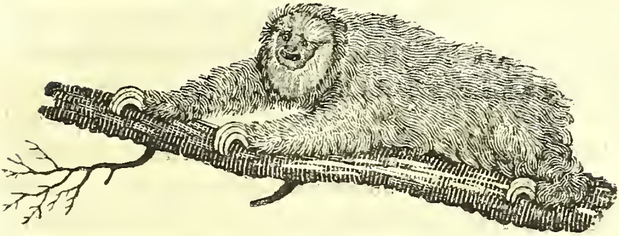
Their ſkins are of great value, and have long formed a conſiderable article of export from Ruſſia. They diſpoſe of them to the Chineſe at the rate of ſeventy or a hundred rubles each, and receive in return ſome of their moſt valuable commodities.

The fur of the Sea-Otter is thick and long, of a beautiful ſhining black colour, but ſometimes of a ſilvery hue; the legs are thick and ſhort; the toes joined by a web; the hind feet like thoſe of a Seal; length, from noſe to tail, four feet two inches; tail thirteen, flat, and pointed at the end.—The largeſt of them weigh from ſeventy to eighty pounds.

The Sea-Otter is remarkably harmleſs, and moſt affectionately fond of its young: It will pine to death for its loſs, and die on the very ſpot where it has been taken away. Before its young can ſwim, it will carry it in its paws, and ſupport it in the water, laying upon its back. —It ſwims in various poſitions,—on its back, ſides, and even in a perpendicular poſture; and in the water is very ſportive.—Two of them are ſometimes ſeen embracing each other.—It frequents ſhallow places, abounding with ſea-weed; and feeds on lobſters, crabs, and other ſhell-fiſh.

It breeds but once a year, and produces one young at a time, which it ſuckles and carefully attends almoſt a year.

The fleſh of a young Otter is reckoned delicate eating, and not eaſily diſtinguiſhed from that of a lamb.



THE SLOTH,

OF all animals, is the moſt ſluggiſh and inactive; and, if we were to judge from outward appearance, would ſeem the moſt helpleſs and wretched. All its motions ſeem to be the effect of the moſt painful exertion, which hunger alone is capable of exciting.

It lives chiefly in trees; and having aſcended one with infinite labour and difficulty, it remains there till it has entirely ſtripped it of all its verdure, ſparing neither fruit, bloſſom, nor leaf; after which it is ſaid to devour even the bark. Being unable to deſcend, it throws itſelf on the ground, and continues at the bottom of the tree till hunger again compels it to renew its toils in ſearch of ſubſiſtence.

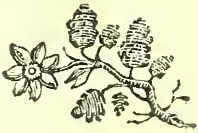
Its motions are accompanied with a moſt piteous and lamentable cry, which terrifies even beaſts of prey, and proves its beſt defence.

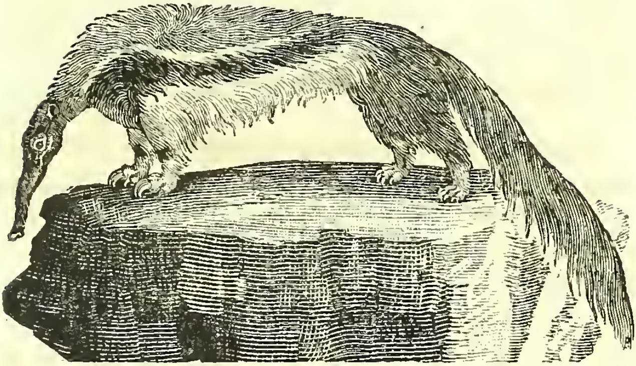
Though ſlow, aukward, and almoſt incapable of motion, the Sloth is ſtrong, remarkably tenacious of life, and capable of enduring a long abſtinence from food. We are told of one that, having faſtened itſelf by its feet to a pole, remained in that ſituation forty days without the leaſt ſuſtenance.—The ſtrength in its legs and feet is ſo great, that, having ſeized any thing, it is almoſt impoſſible to oblige it to quit its hold. The ſame animal laid hold of a Dog that was ſet looſe upon it, and held him faſt with its feet till he periſhed with hunger.

There are two kinds of Sloths, which are principally diſtinguiſhed by the number of their claws.—The one, called the Ai, is about the ſize of a Fox, and has three long claws on each foot: Its legs are clumſy, and aukwardly placed; and the fore legs being longer than the hind, add greatly to the difficulty of its progreſſive motion: Its whole body is covered with a rough coat of long hair, of a lightiſh brown colour, mixed with white, not unlike that of a Badger; and has a black line down the middle of the back: Its face is naked, and of a dirty white colour; tail ſhort; eyes ſmall, black, and heavy. It is found only in South-America.

The Unau has only two claws on each foot: Its head is ſhort and round, ſomewhat like that of a Monkey; its ears are ſhort; and it has no tail. It is found in South-America, and alſo in the iſland of Ceylon.

The fleſh of both kinds is eaten.——They have ſeveral ſtomachs, and are ſaid to belong to the tribe of ruminating animals.





THE ANT-EATER.

THERE are ſeveral animals diſtinguiſhed by the common name of Ant-eaters, which differ greatly in form.——They are divided into three claſſes; viz. the Great, the Middle, and the Leſſer Ant-eater.

The GREAT ANT-EATER is nearly four feet in length, excluſive of its tail, which is two and a half. It is remarkable for the great length of its ſnout, which is of a cylindrical form, and ſerves as a ſheath to its long and ſlender tongue, which always lies folded double in its mouth, and is the chief inſtrument by which it finds ſubſiſtence.

This creature is a native of Brazil and Guiana, runs ſlowly, frequently ſwims over rivers, lives wholly on ants, which it collects by thruſting its tongue into their holes, and having penetrated every part of the neſt, withdraws it into its mouth loaded with prey.

Its legs are ſo ſtrong, that few animals can extricate themſelves from its gripe. It is ſaid to be formidable even to the Panthers of America; and ſometimes fixes itſelf upon them in ſuch a manner, that both of them fall and periſh together; for its obſtinacy is ſo great, that it will not extricate itſelf from its adverſary even after he is dead.

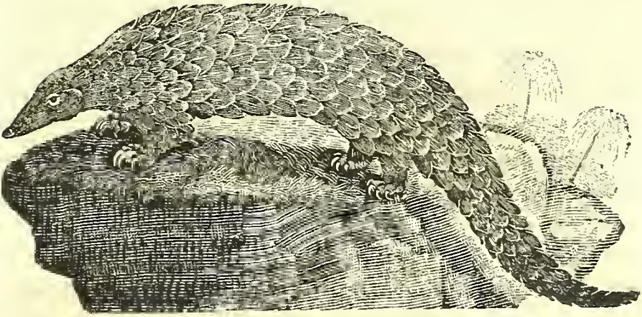
The fleſh has a ſtrong diſagreeable taſte, but is eaten by the Indians.

The MIDDLE ANT-EATER is one foot ſeven inches from noſe to tail. It inhabits the ſame countries, and procures its food in the ſame manner, as the laſt. Its tail is ten inches long, with which it ſecures its hold in climbing trees by twiſting it round the branches.

Both theſe animals have four ſtrong claws on the fore feet, and five on the hind.

The LESSER ANT-EATER has a ſharp-pointed noſe, inclining a little downward: Its ears are ſmall, and hid in the fur: It has two ſtrong hooked claws on the fore feet, the outward one being much the largeſt; and four on the hind feet: Its fur is long, ſoft, and ſilky,—of a yellowiſh-brown colour: Its length, from noſe to tail, is ſeven inches and a half; tail above eight, thick at the baſe, and taper to the end.—It inhabits Guiana; climbs trees in queſt of a ſpecies of ants which build their neſts among the branches.

Animals of this kind are found in Ceylon and the Cape of Good Hope.——Kolben deſcribes the latter as having long heads and tongues; that they feed on ants; and are ſo ſtrong, that, if they faſten their claws in the ground, they cannot eaſily be pulled away.——It is called in Ceylon the *Talgoi*, or *Ant-Bear*.



THE GREAT MANIS, OR PANGOLIN.

THIS ſingular animal is defended by a coat of mail, which protects it from the attacks of the moſt powerful animals. All the upper parts of its body are cloſely covered with ſcales of different ſizes, which it can erect at pleaſure, oppoſing to its adverſary a formidable row of offenſive weapons. The Tiger, the Panther, or the Leopard, in vain attempt to force it. The moment it perceives the approach of an enemy, it rolls itſelf up like a Hedge-hog, and by that means ſecures all the weaker parts of its body.

It is a native of Formoſa and the Indian iſles; is likewiſe found in Guinea, where it feeds on ants, which it takes by laying out its long red tongue, covered with an unctuous ſlime, acroſs the paths of thoſe inſects.

It is ſlow in its motions; grows to the length of eight feet, including its tail, which is four.

Its fleſh is much eſteemed for its delicacy; but it is difficult to procure, as the animal avoids mankind, and lives in obſcure retreats, in woods, and marſhy places.

THE PHATAGIN, OR LONG-TAILED MANIS,

is leſs than the Pangolin, being not more than a foot long from head to tail. Its body is covered with ſharp-pointed ſcales; its throat and belly with hair: Its legs are ſhort; and each foot has four claws. It is remarkable for the great length of its tail, which in ſome is above a yard long.

It is a native of Guinea, has been ſometimes called the SCALY LIZARD, and may be ſaid to be the connecting link in the chain of being between quadrupeds and reptiles.

THE ARMADILLO

IS found only in South-America, where there are ſeveral varieties of them.—They are all covered with a ſtrong cruſt or ſhell, and are diſtinguiſhed from each other by the number of the flexible bands of which it is compoſed.

It is a harmleſs, inoffenſive animal; feeds on roots, fruits, and other vegetables; grows very fat; and is greatly eſteemed for the delicacy of its fleſh.

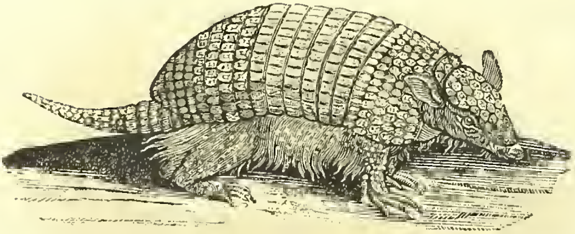
The Indians hunt it with ſmall Dogs, trained for that purpoſe.——When ſurprized, it runs to its hole, or attempts to make a new one, which it does with great expedition, having ſtrong claws on its fore feet, with which it adheres ſo firmly to the ground, that, if it ſhould be caught by the tail whilſt making its way into the earth, its reſiſtance is ſo great, that it will ſometimes leave it in the hands of its purſuers: To avoid this, the hunter has recourſe to artifice; and, by tickling it with a ſtick, it gives up its hold, and ſuffers itſelf to be taken alive. If no other means of eſcape be left, it rolls itſelf up within its covering by drawing in its head and legs, and bringing its tail round them, as a band to connect them more forcibly together: In this ſituation it ſometimes eſcapes by rolling itſelf over the edge of a precipice, and generally falls to the bottom unhurt.

The moſt ſucceſsful method of catching Armadillos is by ſnares laid for them by the ſides of rivers or other places where they frequent.—They all burrow very deep in the ground, and ſeldom ſtir out, except during the night, whilſt they are in ſearch of food.

To give a minute deſcription of the ſhells or coverings of the Armadillos would be extremely difficult, as they are all compoſed of a number of parts, differing greatly from each other in the order and diſpoſition of the figures with which they are diſtinguiſhed: But it may be neceſſary to obſerve, that in general there are two large pieces that cover the ſhoulders and the rump, between which lie the bands, which are more or leſs in number in different kinds. Theſe bands are not unlike thoſe in the tail of a lobſter; and, being flexible, give way to the motions of the animal.——The firſt we ſhall mention is

THE TATUAPARA, OR THREE-BANDED ARMADILLO.

Its ſhell is about twelve inches long, with three bands in the middle: The cruſt on the head, back, and rump, is divided into a number of elegant raiſed figures, with five angles or ſides: Its tail is not more than two inches long: It has neither cutting nor canine teeth; and has five toes on each foot.

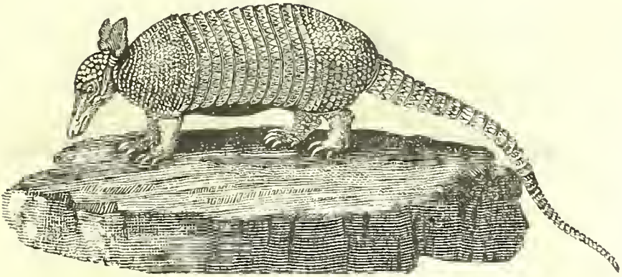


THE TATOU, OR SIX-BANDED ARMADILLO,

is about the ſize of a young Pig. Between the folds of the bands there are a few ſcattered hairs: Its tail is long, thick at the baſe, and tapers to a point.——It is found in Brazil and Guiana.

THE TATUETTE

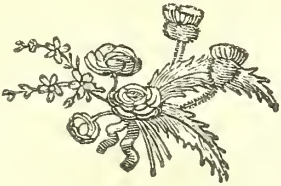
is furniſhed with eight bands. Its ears are long and upright; eyes ſmall and black: It has four toes on the fore feet, and five on the hind: Its length, from noſe to tail, is about ten inches; the tail nine.——It inhabits Brazil, and is reckoned more delicious eating than the others.

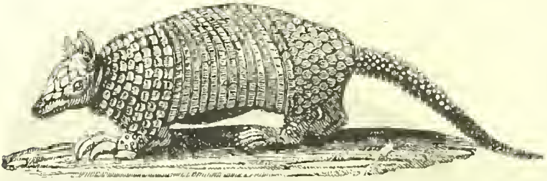


THE NINE-BANDED ARMADILLO

has a tenth band, moveable half way up on each ſide: The ſhell on the ſhoulders and rump is marked with hexangular figures; the breaſt and belly are covered with long hairs; its tail is long and taper; and the whole animal three feet in length.

One of this kind was brought to England a few years ago from the Muſquito ſhore, and lived ſome time. It was fed with raw beef and milk, but refuſed to eat our fruits and grain.





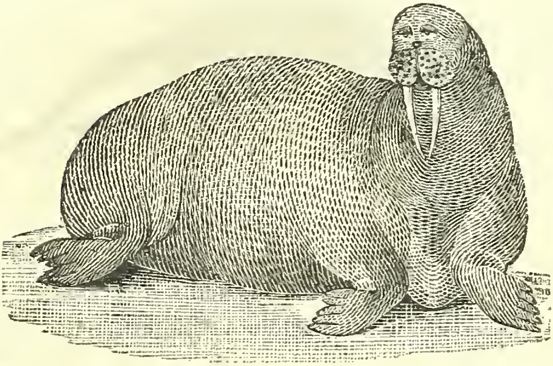
The KABASSOU

is furniſhed with twelve bands, and is the largeſt of all the Armadillos, being almoſt three feet long from noſe to tail: The figures on the ſhoulders are of an oblong form; thoſe on the rump hexangular. It is ſeldom eaten.

The Weasel-headed ARMADILLO,

ſo called from the form of its head, which is ſlender, has eighteen bands from its ſhoulder to its tail: The ſhell is marked with ſquare figures on the ſhoulders; thoſe on the legs and thighs are roundiſh: The body is about fifteen inches long; tail five.

All theſe animals have the power of drawing themſelves up under their ſhells, either for the purpoſe of repoſe or ſafety. They are furniſhed with ſtrong lateral muſcles, conſiſting of numberleſs fibres, croſſing each other in the form of an X, with which they contract themſelves ſo powerfully, that the ſtrongeſt man is ſcarcely able to force them open.——The ſhells of the larger Armadillos are much ſtronger than thoſe of the ſmaller kinds. Their fleſh is likewiſe harder, and more unfit for the table.



THE WALRUS, OR SEA-HORSE.

THERE are ſeveral animals whoſe reſidence is almoſt conſtantly in the water, and which ſeem to partake greatly of the nature of fiſhes, that are nevertheleſs claſſed by naturaliſts under the denomination of quadrupeds; and being perfectly amphibious, living with equal eaſe in the water as on land, may be conſidered as the laſt ſtep in the ſcale of Nature, by which we are conducted from one great diviſion of the animal world to the other.—Of theſe the Walrus is the moſt conſiderable for its ſize, being ſometimes found eighteen feet in length, and twelve in circumference at the thickeſt part: It is likewiſe remarkable for two large tuſks in the upper jaw, which ſometimes exceed two feet in length, and weigh from three to twenty pounds each.

The head of the Walrus is round; its lips very broad, and covered over with thick pellucid briſtles; its eyes ſmall and red; inſtead of ears, it has two ſmall orifices; and above the whiſkers, ſemicircular noſtrils, through which it throws out water like the whale, but with much leſs noiſe: Its ſkin is thick and wrinkled, and has a thin covering of ſhort browniſh hair: Its legs are ſhort: It has five toes on each foot, connected by membranes; and on each toe a ſmall nail: The hind feet are very broad, and extended nearly on a line with the body.

The Walrus is chiefly found in the northern ſeas.—Great herds of them are ſometimes ſeen together on the ſea ſhore, or ſleeping on an iſland of ice. When alarmed, they inſtantly throw themſelves into the water with great precipitation. If wounded, they become bold and furious, and unite in the defence of each other: They will attack a boat, and endeavour to ſink it by ſtriking their great teeth into its ſides, at the ſame time bellowing in a moſt hideous manner.

It is hunted for its teeth, which are equal to thoſe of the Elephant for durability and whiteneſs.

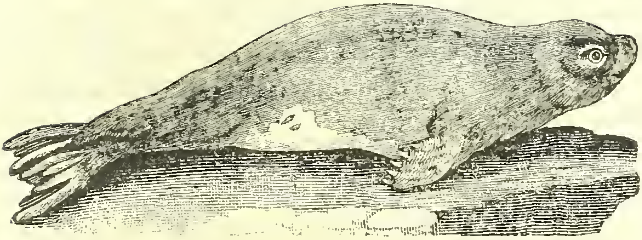
An ordinary Walrus is ſaid to yield half a ton of oil, equal in goodneſs to that of the whale.

The female produces one or two young at a time, which ſhe ſuckles upon land.

In climbing upon the ice, the Walrus makes uſe of its teeth as hooks to ſecure its hold, and draw its great unwieldy body after it.

It feeds on ſea-weeds and ſhell-fiſh, which it is ſaid to diſengage from the rocks to which they adhere with its tuſks.

The White Bear is its greateſt enemy.—In the combats between theſe animals, the Walrus is ſaid to be generally victorious, on account of the deſperate wounds it inflicts with its teeth.



THE SEAL

is found, with ſome variety, in almoſt every quarter of the globe: In the northern ſeas of Aſia, Europe, and America; as well as the leſs frequented regions towards the ſouth pole.

Its uſual length is from five to ſix feet. The body is cloſely covered with ſhort hair of various colours, ſmooth and ſhining; its tongue is forked at the end; it has two canine teeth in each jaw, ſix cutting teeth in the upper, and four in the lower; it has five toes on each foot, furniſhed with ſtrong ſharp claws, which enable it to climb the rocks, on which it frequently baſks.

It ſwims with great ſtrength and ſwiftneſs, is very playful, and ſports without fear about ſhips and boats.—It feeds on various kinds of fiſh, and is frequently ſeen near the ſhore in purſuit of its prey.

Seals are found in great abundance on the coaſts of Great-Britain; particularly in the deep receſſes and caverns in the northern parts of the iſland, where they reſort in the breeding time, and continue till the young ones are old enough to go to ſea.

The time for taking Seals is in the month of October, or the beginning of November. The hunters, provided with torches and bludgeons, enter the mouths of the caverns about midnight, and row in as far as they can: They then land; and, being properly ſtationed, begin by making a great noiſe, which alarms the Seals, and brings them down from all parts of the cavern in a confuſed body, making frightful ſhrieks and cries. In this hazardous employment, great care is neceſſary on the part of the hunters to avoid the throng, which preſſes down with great impetuoſity, and bears away every thing that oppoſes its progreſs; but when the firſt crowd is paſt, they kill great numbers of young ones, which generally ſtraggle behind, by ſtriking them on the noſe.

A young Seal yields above eight gallons of oil.—When full grown, their ſkins are very valuable, and make a beautiful kind of leather, much uſed in making ſhoes, &c.

The fleſh of the Seal is ſometimes eaten; and that it was formerly admitted to the tables of the great, may be ſeen in the bill-of-fare of a ſumptuous entertainment given by archbiſhop Nevil in the reign of Edward the Fourth.

The growth of Seals is ſo amazingly rapid, that after nine tides from their birth they are as active as the old ones.

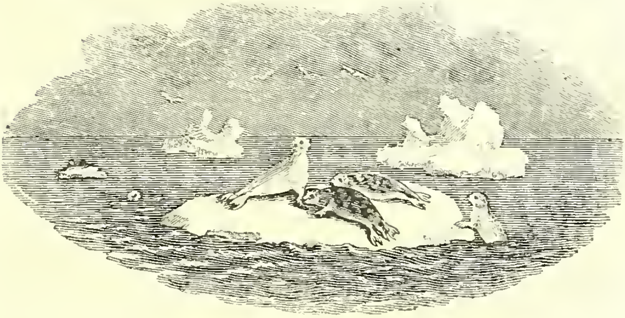
The female brings forth her young on the land, ſits on her hind legs while ſhe ſuckles them, and as ſoon as they are able carries them to ſea, learns them to ſwim and ſearch for food: When they become fatigued, ſhe places them on her back.—The young ones know the voice of their mother, and attend to her call.

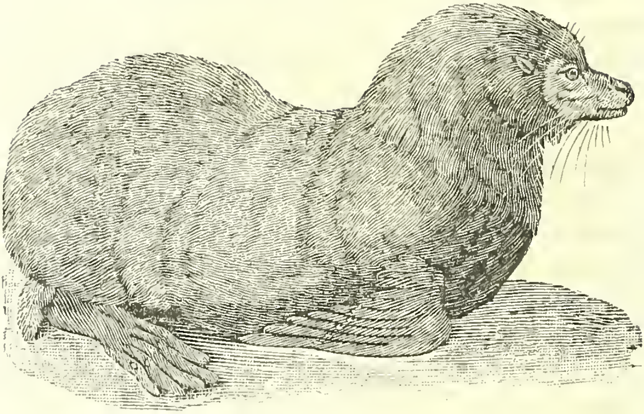
The voice of the Seal has been compared to the hoarſe barking of a Dog; when young, it is clearer, and reſembles the mewing of a Cat.

Seals are likewiſe found in the Mediterranean and Caſpian ſeas, in the lake Baikal, and ſome of the larger lakes. Theſe are ſmaller than the ſalt-water Seals; but ſo fat, that they ſeem almoſt ſhapeleſs.

THE HOODED SEAL

is found in the South of Greenland; and is diſtinguiſhed by a thick fold on its forehead, with which it can cover its eyes and noſe. Its hair is white, with a thick coat of black woolly hair underneath, which makes it appear of a fine grey colour.—The hunters ſay, that it is not eaſily killed, till the covering on its head is removed.





THE URSINE SEAL, OR SEA-BEAR,

is much larger than the common Seal, being eight feet in length, and weighing eight hundred pounds.

Theſe animals are found among the iſlands which lie between Kamtſchatka and America; alſo on the coaſts of New Zealand, Staten Iſland, New Georgia, and Falkland's Iſlands.—They lie in thouſands on the ſhore, in ſeparate families, each conſiſting of above an hundred. One male will ſometimes have fifty females, which he guards with extreme jealouſy. They are exceſſively fat and indolent, ſometimes ſcarcely ever moving from the place where they lie for the ſpace of three months; during which time the females breed and ſuckle their young. If another approach their ſtation, they are rouſed from their ſupineneſs: A battle enſues, which frequently becomes general, and ſpreads confuſion through the whole ſhore. Theſe conflicts are extremely violent; and the wounds given are very deep, reſembling a cut with a ſabre.

The attachment of the male to the young is very ſtrong: He defends them with great obſtinacy, and frequently revenges their loſs upon the female, whom he beats moſt cruelly; whilſt ſhe crawls to his feet, and ſeems to deprecate his wrath with the moſt obſequious geſtures.

The female generally brings forth one, ſeldom two, at a time.

They ſwim with great eaſe, at the rate of about ſeven miles in an hour.—When wounded, they will ſeize on a boat, carry it along with them, and ſometimes ſink it.—They can continue a long time under water.—In climbing rocks, they faſten their fore paws, and draw themſelves up.

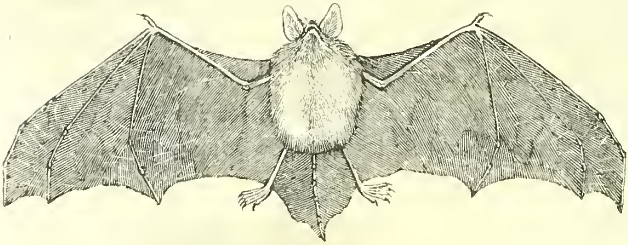
Theſe, and all the Seal kind, will live a long time after receiving the moſt dreadful wounds; but the moſt trifling blow on the ſnout or forehead inſtantly kills them.

The general colour of theſe animals is black. They are covered with a coat of long rough hair, under which is a ſoft down of a bay colour. On the neck of the old ones, the hair is erect, and a little longer than the reſt.

The fat and fleſh of the old males are very nauſeous; but thoſe of the females and the young, when roaſted, are ſaid to be as good as the fleſh of a ſucking pig.

THE BAT.

THIS ſingular animal is diſtinguiſhed from every other quadruped by being furniſhed with wings, and ſeems to poſſeſs a middle nature between four-footed animals and birds: It is allied to the one by the faculty of flying only, to the other both by its external and internal ſtructure: In each reſpect it has the appearance of an imperfect animal. In walking, its feet ſeem to be entangled with its wings, and it drags its body on the ground with extreme aukwardneſs. Its motions in the air do not ſeem to be performed with eaſe; it raiſes itſelf from the ground with difficulty, and its flight is laboured and ill directed; from whenee it has very ſignificantly been called the FLITTER-MOUSE.——There are ſeveral varieties of the Bat kind.



THE SHORT-EARED BAT

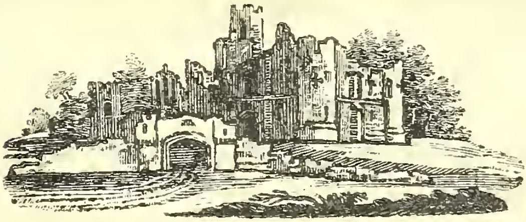
is found in almoſt every part of Europe, and is moſt commonly known in Great-Britain.—Its uſual length is about two inches and a half; the extent of the wings nine inches.

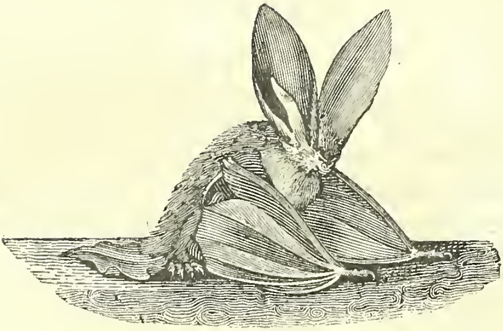
It makes its firſt appearance early in the ſummer. It ſleeps during the day, and begins its flight in the duſk of the evening. It frequents the ſides of woods, glades, and ſhady walks; and is frequently obſerved to ſkim along the ſurface of the water in queſt of gnats and other inſects, which are its principal food.

Its membranes or wings are of a duſky colour, and very thin: They extend from the fore feet to the tail. The hind feet are divided into five toes, furniſhed with claws: The body is covered with a ſhort ſoft fur, of a mouſe-colour, tinged with red: The eyes are very ſmall; and the ears like thoſe of a Mouſe: It has four cutting teeth in the upper jaw, and ſix in the under.

The female produces two young at a time, which ſhe ſuckles at her breaſt; and is ſaid to carry them when flying.

Towards the end of ſummer, the Bat retires into caves, old buildings, or hollow trees; where it remains in a ſtate of inactivity. During winter, ſome cover themſelves with their wings as with a mantle, and ſuſpend themſelves by the hind feet; others ſtick faſt to old walls; and ſome retire into holes.





The Long-eared BAT

is only an inch and three quarters in length: The extent of its wings is ſeven inches; its ears are above an inch long, very thin, and almoſt tranſparent; within each of them there is a membrane, reſembling an ear, which may poſſibly ſerve as a valve to defend the organs of hearing during its inactive ſtate.

The NOCTULE, or Great BAT,

is found in Great-Britain, but is not ſo common as the two laſt mentioned: It is likewiſe found in France, and is common in various parts of Ruſſia.

Its length is nearly three inches; that of the tail one and ſeven-tenths; the extent of the wings thirteen inches; the ears are ſhort, the hair of a reddiſh-aſh colour, and on the chin there is a very ſmall wart.

The PIPISTRELLE

is the ſmalleſt, and its appearance the leaſt diſguſting, of all Bats. Its length is not quite one inch and a quarter; the extent of its wings ſix and a half; its noſe is ſmall, ears broad, and its forehead covered with long hairs; the upper part of the body is of a yellowiſh-brown colour, the lower part duſky, and the lips yellow.—It inhabits France, and is common in Ruſſia and Siberia.

The BARBASTELLE

is diſtinguiſhed by the ſhortneſs of its face, almoſt concealed by its large broad ears; the baſes of which touch each other, and cover the forehead and eyes: Its cheeks are full, and its lips hairy; its noſe is very ſhort, and the end of it flat. Its length is about two inches; the extent of the wings ten and a half.—It is found in France.

The SEROTINE

is about the ſize of the common Bat; its noſe is ſomewhat longer; its ears are ſhort, and broad at the baſe; the hair on the upper part of the body is of a light-brown or ruſt colour, and the belly paler.—It is likewiſe found in France.

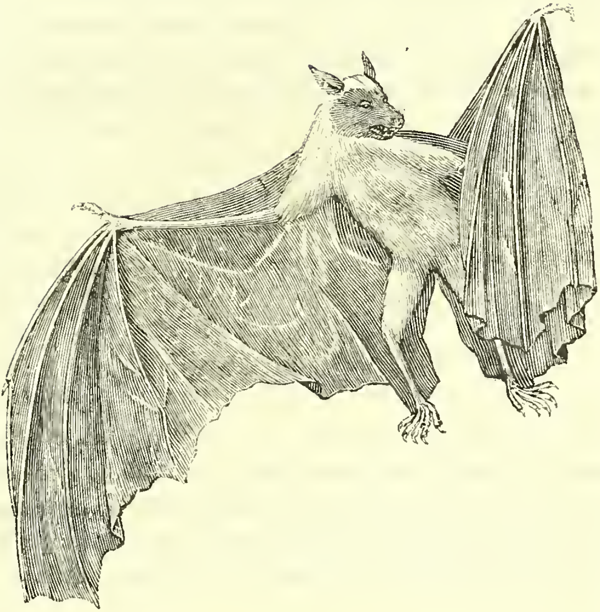
The Horse-shoe BAT

is diſtinguiſhed by a membrane ſurrounding its noſe and upper lip ſomewhat in the form of a horſe-ſhoe; from whence it derives its name. Its ears are long, very broad at the baſe, and are not furniſhed with a ſmaller or internal ear, common to almoſt all the Bat kind: The upper part of the body is of an aſh colour, the belly whitiſh.—They vary in ſize: The largeſt are above three inches and a half long from the noſe to the end of the tail; the extent of the wings is above fourteen.

This kind is very common in France, and is the laſt of ſeven diſtinct ſpecies deſcribed by M. Buffon as natives of that climate.—Theſe are all equally harmleſs, diminutive, and obſcure; ſhunning the light, and endeavouring to conceal themſelves in holes and caverns. They never come out, but during the night, in queſt of food; and return at day-break to their dreary habitations.——But under the influence of a warmer climate, the Bat aſſumes a very different character, and poſſeſſes powers which render it formidable to mankind, and a ſcourge to thoſe countries where it is found. Some of them are as large as a well-grown pullet; and ſo numerous, that they frequently darken the air as they fly. They are fond of blood, and will attack men whom they find aſleep; they are ſaid to introduce their ſharp-pointed tongues into a vein, ſucking the blood till they are ſatiated, without awaking the ſufferer.

The ancients had an imperfect knowledge of theſe animals; and from their aptneſs to convert every object of terror into an imaginary being, it is probable they had conceived the idea of Harpies, from the cruelty, voracity, and diſguſting deformity of theſe creatures.

Theſe monſters inhabit Madagaſcar, and all the iſlands of the Indian Ocean: They have likewiſe been found in New Holland, the Friendly Iſles, the New Hebrides, and New Caledonia.



THE ROUSSETTE, OR GREAT TERNATE BAT,

is the largeſt, being above one foot in length, and the extent of its wings more than four: It has large canine teeth, four cutting teeth above, and the ſame below; its tongue is pointed, and terminated with ſharp-pointed papillæ, or prickles; its noſe is ſharp, and its ears large and naked; it has five toes on the hind feet, furniſhed with ſtrong hooked claws; it has no tail; the head is of a dark ruſt colour; the back duſky; the neck, ſhoulders, and under ſide, of a lighter brown, inclining to red; the membranes of the wings duſky.

They feed on fruits, and are extremely fond of the juice of the palm-tree, with which they will frequently intoxicate themſelves, ſo as to drop on the ground. One hundred and fifty or two hundred of them may ſometimes be ſeen on the ſame tree, all hanging with their heads down, and their wings folded; and in this manner they repoſe during great part of the day.—They grow very fat at certain times of the year; and when young, they are eaten by the Indians, and conſidered as excellent food.

THE ROUGETTE, OR LESSER TERNATE BAT,

inhabits the ſame countries, and is very ſimilar to the laſt in the ſhape of its head and body: The hair is of a cinereous brown colour; and on the neck it has a half-collar, of a lively red, mixed with orange. It is about five inches long; and the extent of its wings little more than two feet.

The Rougettes fly in flocks, and perfectly obſcure the air with their numbers. They fly from one iſland to another, and begin their flight about ſun-ſet. During the day, they lodge in the hollow trunks of trees. They ſkim along the ſurface of the water with great eaſe, and frequently dip and waſh themſelves in the ſea. They live chiefly in trees; and when about to fly, they beat the air with their wings, before they can diſengage themſelves from the branch to which they are attached. When ſhot at or ſuddenly ſurprized, ſeveral of them fall to the ground; and in that ſituation are incapable of reſuming their flight, till they climb upon ſome elevated object. They move aukwardly on the ground, and uſe their utmoſt efforts to quit it as ſoon as poſſible.

Both theſe kinds bring only one young at a time, once a year.

THE SPECTRE BAT

is a native of South-America. It is called the *Vampyre* by M. Buffon; who ſuppoſes it to be one of the blood-ſucking tribe.

Its noſe is long; and at the end there is a membrane, of a conical form, ſomewhat like a horn, but flexile, which gives it a hideous and diſguſting aſpect. It has no tail. Its body is covered with long hair, of an aſh colour.

THE SENEGAL BAT

has two cutting teeth in the upper, and ſix in the under jaw; and two canine teeth, and eight grinders, in each jaw: Its head is long, ears ſhort and pointed, head and body of a tawny-brown colour, belly lighter, length rather more than four inches, extent of the wings twenty-one.

THE BULL-DOG BAT.

Its noſe is thick; lips large, and ſomewhat pendulous; its ears are broad and round, the edges touching each other in the front; the upper part of the body is of a deep aſh colour, the lower paler; its tail is long; length about two inches,—extent of the wings nine and a half: It has twenty-ſix teeth; two cutting and two canine in each jaw; eight grinders in the upper, and ten in the lower jaw.

THE BEARDED BAT.

The noſtrils of this animal are not ſeparated by a cartilage, as in moſt animals, but are placed on the ſide of a ſmall gutter or furrow, which is open from one end to the other; the ears are long and narrow; the upper part of the head and body is of a reddiſh-brown colour,—the lower part whitiſh, tinged with yellow; hair on the forehead and under the chin very long; length of the body about an inch and a half,—extent of the wings little more than ſeven.

THE STRIPED BAT

has a ſmall, ſhort noſe; ears ſhort, broad, and pointing forward.——Theſe Bats vary in colour. The body is generally of a clear brown,—the under part whitiſh: Its wings are ſtriped with black, and ſometimes with yellow and brown.—Length of the body two inches.——It is a native of Ceylon, where it is called *Kiriwoula*.

To this we may add a very minute kind, mentioned by Mr Forſter, which was ſeen and heard in myriads on the iſland of Tanna, one of the New Hebrides; but every attempt of our voyagers to obtain a nearer inſpection of them failed of ſucceſs.

Bats differ very much in the number and diſpoſition of their teeth, which has occaſioned no ſmall confuſion in the arrangements of ſyſtematic writers; ſome of them being furniſhed with two, others with more, cutting teeth in each jaw.

We have now given the moſt diſtinguiſhed varieties of this curious ſpecies. It would be fruitleſs, if not impoſſible, to point out all the peculiarities to be found in the various tribes which abound in every country in the world, and differ from each other more in their habits and diſpoſitions than in their exterior form and appearance, which in all of them ſeem to be equally deformed and diſguſting.—But we ſhould not from hence conclude, that imperfection and deformity are always in uniform analogy with the notions we have pre-conceived of what is fair and beautiful.—Amidſt the infinite productions of creative power, variety of form, difference of faculties, and degrees of utility, are eminently obſervable; compoſing one general plan, in which wiſdom, order, and fitneſs, are diſplayed through all its parts.

FINIS.